

have a lot to add to what Senator Lindsay and Senator Chambers said except that Senator Firsch said something when she first opened on this amendment that when she agreed to the amendment on covering the last trimester that then she had agreed that this particular amendment, that this part would not be following it. I don't remember any agreement like that. I didn't have any meetings or anything where I agreed on anything except I think that I think the woman should be covered for the whole nine months. And, obviously, she does not, but that's not part of the argument. The other thing is there are women who are not on AFDC who do get some assistance for prenatal care, and that is very important to them, as Senator Lindsay has pointed out, and as Senator Chambers has, both. I think that what we, again, here we are not thinking about the child. We must do that. You must put aside your prejudices and your feelings that this woman has done something wrong, so she is not...she can't have any of these benefits for the child. The child is the one you must remember, and we cannot judge the woman and take it out on the child. And the prenatal care is so important. I don't...I just don't want this changed at all. I will vote against this amendment, and I hope that...I hope those of you on this floor who characterize yourselves as pro-life will listen. For me, being pro-life protects the life of the unborn child, that's the first step. But the second, and even more important when it comes right down to it, is protecting and nurturing that child once it is born. And I will always do that. I think, for me that's part of my pro-life philosophy. You take care of the child. I try not to judge the mother or the parents and, who was it, Dagwood that said parents are a sorry lot. A lot of them are. I probably, at many times, I fail...I feel right now I fail as a parent quite often. I don't blame my children for that. I blame myself. So let's not think about the parent, let's think about the child, and, remember, how important that prenatal care is to the child when it's born and as it grows. That all adds up. So I just urge every one of you, who can hear my voice, please, please vote against this amendment. It is not a good amendment. We discussed it once before, and I'm really sorry it was brought back. I have a feeling that there is a mentality here that we have to save money at the expense of children. Remember what we are talking about. We are talking about the child, the baby. If you want to protect that life, you protect it after it is born too. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Chambers.