

Journal.) 21 ayes, 6 nays to cease debate.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Debate is not ceased. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think Senator Robak might...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Excuse me, let me raise the call.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, I had indicated it would probably be quicker if we'd just go ahead and debate it out because I might be the only one with another comment but, nevertheless, it is good that we have an idea of how many people are here now. But this is an issue, for those who have come in, where Senator Pirsch is offering an amendment to strike the modest increase in prenatal care that would be provided under an amendment that we had already adopted. She wants to strike that. I am opposed to her amendment. Senator Lindsay, Senator Crosby have also spoken in opposition. I suspect that there are others who definitely will vote in opposition because of the fact that the bill was amended after a serious debate on this issue. The reason I wanted to speak one more time is because in my prior two times I had asked Senator Pirsch some questions, which ate into my time. We are dealing with poor women. We are dealing with poor women who need prenatal assistance. The one thing Senator Pirsch and I agreed on is that we are talking about a period which precedes the birth of a child. Since, by definition, the one who is qualified must be poor, and there must be a condition that needs to be addressed, which she cannot afford to address with her own means, we are talking about a matter of statewide concern. We all say that we are interested in healthy babies being born. Maybe some people think that individuals are impoverished by choice. I don't. But even if that is the case, the one who has not yet come into this world should not be penalized for the actions of those who currently are in the world. We do have an obligation, when the opportunity arises, to provide that help to those mothers who are poor who want to carry pregnancies to term. Those who say they are pro-life, whatever that term may mean, and are opposed to abortions, should not just be interested in a pregnancy being carried to term. They should be interested in the birth involving a healthy child or one as healthy as can be made with assistance of the kind we are trying to extend through the language that Senator Pirsch wishes to strike. I hope that those who supported this amendment will vote against Senator Pirsch's attempt to remove it. I can