

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Crosby, followed by Senators Pedersen and Preister. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This is prenatal care we are talking about, and the woman is the one that needs the help. These women do get some help, that's true, but what you are trying to do here is take away what we did on the original bill on General file, which everyone voted for, and include, and hang onto that third trimester pregnancy, and give her the medical assistance that she needs during her pregnancy. I don't think that...I do understand the bill. It is crystal-clear to me what is being done here and I was here in the special session when the Governor was making his valiant efforts to cut the budget, and those of us on Appropriations were working very hard to do that, and one of the things he did was come along and take away the nine-month coverage of the baby for the woman who was on ADC, and we, at that time, managed to hang on to the last trimester. As far as I'm concerned, we, as I said earlier, we should be covering the whole nine months. She should have that prenatal care, and she should have that extra little bit of cash that will help her survive and help the baby survive. And you can all stand down there and talk and pretend that you are in Congress right now and staving off the wolf at the door for the United States of America budget, I don't go along with that. You also are not balancing our budget here in Nebraska. We have to have a balanced budget. We may not borrow money. The Appropriations Committee will bring one in that will be balanced. But as usual, you want to balance it on the backs of the poor, and these women have to be poor or they don't get any help, the need is studied, and they have to show that they need the money or they don't get it. For some reason, you keep trying to gloss that over as if they just walk into some office and they say, okay, here is your money. That doesn't happen. They have to go through a lot of hoops before they get any kind of assistance. So, I am not going to say any more because I am becoming very angry at the things that are being said by people who say that they are pro-life. If you are pro-life, you want to take care of the baby before and after it is born. If you don't, in 1992 when we had the argument about the budget, and this happens all the time, I work with a group of people in my district who are both pro-life and pro-choice, and everyone of them stand up and want to take care of the baby. If the woman decides to have it, they want to take care of the baby. Nobody wavers from that. So I am going to vote against