

that...literally to take the place of those other kinds of parental and grandparent authority? We provide them with medical, we provide them with housing, we provide them with a whole list of other things that I have passed out to you. We will continue to do the cash payment for the next year and then reduce it to the last two months in the next year. And our whole form of welfare may look a lot different at that time. There is a lot of changes going on. And as you're well aware in 455, we are not even going to pay at any time for a child who was conceived or born ten months after a woman goes on to welfare in the first place. So we're saying in 455 enough is enough and it is time to wean people off of the welfare model as we know it. Working mothers, working fathers, those who are on the...you might say the low end of the income scale both have to work to take care of their family and to pay their taxes. And I think that the more incentive we give to people to not depend on government, not depend on the welfare system is the direction we're headed and it's a good direction. And I would hope that you would continue in that direction by adopting this amendment that phases out the cash payment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I oppose this amendment and the others that Senator Pirsch will offer. We have gone through this bill thoroughly on General File and I'm prepared to go through it again thoroughly on Select File. My intent is to resist any effort to further reduce the benefits to these poor pregnant women. My desire is that the bill not pass. So if Senator Pirsch wants to offer her amendments and we run the bill and run it, it's of no moment to me. If the bill does not pass, then an arrangement that was made during a session when cutting was supposed to be taking place, it was agreed that women would receive these benefits only during the last three months of pregnancy. After a certain amount of time passed, which Senator Pirsch made mention of, that provision of law would change and we would go back to the original way of saying that when conception had been medically determined then a poor pregnant woman would be entitled to these benefits. That proposition was in line with the attitude that a majority of the body seems to have toward declaring a fetus to be an unborn child. In the language of these bills and the amendments, you see the terminology "unborn child". It is kind of interesting to me that whether a fetus is an unborn child or not is going to be placed on a sliding scale by Senator Pirsch.