

decisions on their own is like a fish out of water. We need to help them. I suggest to you also that we've helped them get into this state by some of the laws we've passed and some of the ways that we treat young people. In the last two decades at least we have gone down from telling young people what to do to letting them do as they've seen fit and we still call them kids. I can't believe it. I really can't believe it that we help them get there and then don't want to help them out. And I see this as a hand up, not a handout and three months, again I see the last trimester as being the least that we can do. Please, people, take a look at this. We need to be responsible for the young people of today and I see this as being responsible. I don't even want to put the pro-choice, pro-life into this and I see that it does fit, but how about responsibility? Let's make young people responsible, let's make kids responsible,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: ...more responsible. I suggest to you again that that's our job and when we screw up we're probably going to have to pay for it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members, I'm going to try to provide a historical background on this and oversight of the options before us and give that perspective for you. We have been a state, and actually we were one of only two states that started cash payments for those that were low income pregnant women from point of verification of pregnancy and that once was a federal policy, and then the federal government changed and decided only to cover the last three months in a match, but we continued with state money to cover the first six months and then hooked up as other states did with the federal government and got the match. We had taken that policy and then because of the budget shortfall made a change and I introduced a bill very similar to Senator Pirsch's on behalf of the Governor and we compromised pretty much where this bill currently is, that we would cover the last three months with a federal match but not continue to cover the first six months, and then we sunsetted that and will go back to covering the first six months at...this summer if we don't take action, so if we do nothing we face a \$1.4 million bill because we'll now cover the three months we're now covering plus the first six months possibly if we don't take any action. So in my view that's the wrong step