

to take and we've tried to work out how to move forward on that. The current version of the bill keeps us where we're currently at which is that we cover the last three months with cash payment and that saves us the 1.4 million that we're talking about which is currently the situation, and then we take out of that 1.4 million and we put 400,000 of it into prenatal care and increase by 300 some mothers and 300 some children and give prenatal care to them because we go to a higher income level to qualify from 133 to 150 percent so now the current version of the bill saves \$1 million. Senator Pirsch would then take us with this amendment eventually to a point where no cash payment is made not only for the first six months, also for the last three months and then that ultimately is a \$2 million figure and then the prenatal care is \$400,000 again so we end up with a \$1.6 million savings. So that's kind of the range of options. If we do nothing we have a \$1.4 million cost. If we pass the bill as it currently is constituted, that's a million dollar savings. If we pass the bill with the Pirsch amendment it's a \$1.6 million savings and that's kind of the options that we have. Again, the actual first plan would not stop the Medicaid and the food stamps and the WIC, those would continue as the cash payment that's at issue and, as I indicated before, that was a position I took in the special session and also supported with the bill coming out of committee, so I do support the Pirsch amendment, but again I think the question is, what do we feel comfortable with and in the past that has varied in terms of what we've done. If you have any questions I'd be happy to answer them. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Bohlke would like to announce that there are 57 fifth graders and two teachers here from St. Michaels's School in Hastings. They are in the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Pirsch, your light is next.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President, and I appreciate Senator Wesely's historical background. We are talking about just the cash payment. With Senator Chambers' amendment which I oppose would, of course, continue that for the next 100 years. And I appreciate Senator Pedersen and his words about we need to make our young people responsible. We need to make individuals responsible and that's exactly the way I stand on the welfare. Yes, we need to help people and, indeed, 5 percent, and this is a national figure, work and we still support them with various