

which is also already in the legislation. But where we make the change is where it tells about the payment standard, and it is to be based on family size. And then it says, on and after July 1, 1997, any child born into the recipient family, after the initial ten months participation of program, shall not increase the cash assistance payment. So what we've done, in essence, is just extend the family cap for participation to two years, it goes through July 1st of '97 instead of July 1st, '95. If you have any questions why I'd be glad to answer that for you. I think you all are aware of what I'm trying to do. This is an amendment that I've carried to the welfare bill last year. It's a little bit different, but it deals with the family cap, before we tried to eliminate it. This amendment will simply extend it for two years. The...one of the reasons we're doing this, and I think probably a number of you got a handout yesterday from the Nebraska Right to Life that showed the provisions of this family cap and what it's done in New Jersey, and their literature indicated that the abortions have increased in New Jersey roughly, almost 4 percent, not quite, like 3.8 percent since it's been in effect. And I would like for us to be able to wait for two years and find out how it's working in other states that are doing...that have implemented this. I believe there are three other states have implemented the family cap provisions; besides New Jersey, I think Arkansas and Wisconsin...Arkansas and Wisconsin. So these are the...this is what the amendment does and this is what I would like for you to support. I'd like to...try to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Ah, yes, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I rise in opposition to this amendment. I think that we've debated the policy a number of times, certainly since I've been in the Legislature, certainly on this bill, it's the same policy. And so I don't know that delaying it two years, we've made the policy decision and we had a strong support on the floor to do that. I think that we should stay with that. And I see delaying it does not do anything at all except delaying what we've already decided is our policy. For that reason I will oppose the Dierks amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Beutler, Pirsch, Wesely, Witek