

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

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I want to just run by the figures for you that I got from fiscal on this. The family cap would not impact any cases until fiscal year '97. The costs to reinstate the coverage would be \$138,000...\$138,876, that's broken down into \$55,550 of General Fund and \$83,326 of federal dollars. The costs would be spread over 163 cases in the Omaha area, and it would impact about 326 cases statewide. Just...I thought you'd be interested in knowing those figures. So we're talking about General Fund dollars of \$55,000 per year, and that won't start until 1997, that's the impact. If we keep the program in place I guess you could say those would be our costs. So I'm still...I still think what we're doing is a good decision with this amendment. I think that you not only provide some security for these pregnant mothers, you also...you also provide that there could be fewer abortions as we've seen in the New Jersey instance with the implementation of the family cap. And I think we'll see that also in Wisconsin and Arkansas. Those are the only three states that have implemented the family cap, and track record so far hasn't been all that whippy, if you consider that the first state to do it was New Jersey, and it's been a difficult road for them. I just think that it's going to be a decision that we'll wish we hadn't made, if we make it. And I think we should consider all those options when we consider this particular amendment. Thank you.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, members of the Legislature, I would like to argue against the amendment in kind of a perverse kind of way, I guess. I really think that what we're doing with this bill, to a certain extent, involves, to a large extent involves the restoration of public confidence in the welfare system, you know, along with some very needed changes. I'm not saying that the changes that we are making are superficial in any way, but what it's all about, in large part, is the restoration of the confidence of the public in the system. And I think with respect to this one item the irresponsibility of having further children when you cannot financially afford further children, and then depending upon the