

decisions based on their income, they don't get any additional dollars if the wife gets pregnant, she doesn't quit working if she gets pregnant, and indeed doesn't get a raise when she gets pregnant at her job. And that's the question of fairness that we have to deal with. We want to encourage people to take individual responsibility. We want people...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...to think before they act. And as Robert Rector (phonetic) puts it, "For 30 years the welfare system has paid for nonwork and nonmarriage, and it has achieved massive increases in both." And I think that is the fairness issue. Why do we want to reward nonwork and nonmarriage? Bryant (phonetic) goes on to say that "people are making decisions in this New Jersey new culture, people are making decisions that are in their own best interest. Women are saying, I don't want my children to be poor, I don't need another child until I can fend for myself. It's the difference between having a dream and a fantasy."

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise in support of the Dierks amendment. I just can't believe what we're talking about here. We're talking about \$55,000 in General Funds did you say, Senator Dierks, the first year? I mean, I'll bet...I'll bet there's a lot of farm subsidies in Nebraska that are that high to take care of one family. We're talking about taking care of numerous families here. We're talking about taking care of little, tiny babies. And as Senator Crosby said, we're not...we shouldn't be punishing the babies for what we consider to be the mother's mistakes. And furthermore, you know, everybody makes mistakes. People get pregnant when they don't mean to get pregnant. I mean even in this day and age it happens, which is going to make their life more miserable when we do these kind of things. What if this woman has twins? Or what if she has triplets? She's made one mistake but we're going to punish her two or three times. I mean I just don't believe we're having this conversation. This is the one part of the bill that I'm just still having a terrible time accepting because what these kinds of payments were for originally really were for the children, and we're losing sight of that when we say that just because you were born at a certain time, your mother is not going to be able to take