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much higher level...a higher number of strokes than men. In '96, there were 704 deaths due to strokes among Nebraska women and only 432 stroke deaths among men. Now, those are deaths. Obviously, they're not going to be requiring long-term care, but there is a much higher incidence, as well as deaths, of being either totally disabled or partially disabled, which requires long-term care. Again, when we're talking about the kind of money that we want to, you know, are concerned about spending, remember that that money gets spent, to a great extent, in the kind of care that's required for the elderly population. Also, on the other end of the spectrum with regard to a women's health issue is the low birth rate (sic) of babies in the state of Nebraska. Now I've mentioned this a couple times more. Babies that weigh less than five and a half pounds are considered low birth rate, excuse me, low birth weight, and low birth weight is the leading cause of baby deaths. Compared to infants of normal birth weight, low birth weight babies are five to ten times more likely to die during the first year, and I had mentioned that before. Low birth weight is also linked to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, chronic lung diseases, and growth and development problems. If there are people on the floor of this Legislature who are concerned about expenditures with regard to this health initiative, I submit to you that those kinds of chronic illnesses among young children are much more expensive. If you just want to talk about dollars and cents, that's much more expensive to the state of Nebraska than the money we're talking about expending for a women's health initiative. I will also remind you that the rate of low birth weight babies has increased steadily over the past several years. It has not gone down in the state of Nebraska. It has gone up. The low birth weight rate was 63 babies per 1,000 live births in 1996. That's compared to 52 in 1990. We're seeing an increasing number of babies born with low birth rate...low birth weight. And we know very well that among people of color, babies of color, the low birth weight...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR KIEL: ...is much higher than it is for white babies. If we want to talk about dollars and cents, if we want to talk about what this will cost, then I will submit to you that it is much less expensive to provide for some policy making, to