

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 3, 2000

LB 925

it was a good idea. During the hearing not a single Nebraskan testified against it. Not a single Nebraskan was neutral on the bill. It seemed to be common sense at the time; I think it makes sense now. I think it's compassionate. I think it's empowering. I'd...the only opposition that I've heard is a murky philosophical objection and I will let those who oppose this amendment or have concerns lay that out, for if I was to try to characterize their objections to this amendment I feel I would be doing a disservice, because when I hear the objections I hear tinges of feelings of superiority and lack of trust for that woman who has a child. Because someone finds themselves in an economic disadvantaged situation, an unplanned situation, an unforeseen situation, that does not make me superior to that person. So, to refrain from going farther into the objections or trying to characterize them, I'll let the opponents do that on their own, lest I...my bias come through and frame it in such a way that I feel is probably too emotional and perhaps, at least from their perspective, a disservice of their position. This makes LB 25 (sic) almost revenue neutral. We, this afternoon, we're going to be looking at overturning some vetoes. The Governor vetoed over \$8 million of appropriation. Here's an opportunity to save the state a million and a half dollars and I think doing the right thing for that woman who finds herself in this position. We've had, on the previous amendment, some debate regarding whether we should be extending ourselves into providing businesses tax credits and why shouldn't they do this; should we...you know, they should supply it on their own; we shouldn't incentivize this; they should just pay their people more. And those are valid arguments. But I'll submit to you, in a way these people are our people. We have an opportunity now to decide how we are going to treat Nebraska's people, people who have come to Nebraska, the state government, to look for assistance. This is a different argument. Also, I should close by saying Senator Landis' bill helps on the supply side. We have a huge demand for day care. That is designed to give us more opportunities for day care. This amendment goes to the demand side. If this amendment were adopted there should be less demand for day care, not enough to solve the problem but combined with LB 925 I feel it will go a long way showing our leadership in addressing the child care problem, which I believe we all admit exists in the state of Nebraska. I encourage the body to adopt AM2593. Thank you.