

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

April 3, 2000

LB 925

this amendment even more than they don't like LB 925, I think, judging by their presence out in the lobby. My answer is twofold: personal and then what my recommendation is to the body. If you support LB 925 and you'll support it with this amendment and you're going to march it all the way through the process, vote green and add it to the bill. It saves money, it puts mothers and children together for longer periods of time, it does not undo welfare reform, so I think it has a relatively positive set of social outcomes from my perspective. But only do that if, in fact, this winds up strengthening LB 925 and not weakening it. I don't want to weaken LB 925 to do this program. Just this...I love the Suttle amendment's goal but I just don't want to make it more difficult to pass the bill. Secondly, for myself, I'm going to vote green. I do that, however, as one of the handful of senators that voted against welfare reform because I didn't think there were going to be jobs for women at the end of the two years and I felt we were going to have people dropped from welfare without appropriate opportunities. So it's not inconsistent for me to vote for this amendment because it's consistent with where I was on welfare reform. Free call. Do what you're going to do. Just...I hope you'll make sure that if you are a supporter of LB 925 that if you choose to vote for this amendment you do it because you're going to be with LB 925 all the way through. And if you're an opponent of LB 925,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...I hope you don't use this amendment as some kind of anchor to sink the boat. I hope you won't. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I rise in support of this amendment. I think this a wonderful thing. As I said during the discussion of our last amendment, I think that quality child care is the next best thing to mother's care, and mother's care is the best. And I think that this is a marvelous idea. I wish I had thought of it. I congratulate Senator Hilgert for thinking of it and I think that it is a good use of that first year of life to have with mother and sometimes that can never be regained, and I do