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LB 425

amendment and substitute AM1374. (Legislative Journal
pages 1369-1370.)

SENATOR FOLEY: That is correct.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Without objection, so ordered. Senator
Foley, to open on AM1374 to the committee amendment.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you very much, Mr. President, members.
Good afternoon. A month ago, the Nebraska Department of Health
and Human Services published an annual statistical report on
abortions in the state of Nebraska. And the report showed that
for the year 2004, the number of abortions performed in our
state had actually declined about 10 percent from the prior
year. I don't believe there's a single member of our
Legislature who would be disappointed to know that the rate of
abortion had declined from...in 2004, from the prior year. That
has not always been the case. Some years it will go up a bit,
and others it will go down. But in general, it seems to be
trending down. And I think most of us greet that as good news.
Despite the fact that it's down 10 percent, there were still
about 3,600 abortions performed last year. And when you begin
to dig into the statistics, both here in Nebraska and elsewhere
across the country, what you find is, in about 90 percent of the
cases, the reason cited by the woman seeking the abortion is
reasons relating to socioeconomic pressure. And I respect the
fact that in this legislative body, as in any legislative body
throughout this country, there is a wide divergent range of
views on this sensitive issue. We're not going to settle that
this afternoon. We're not even going to try to settle that,
because we can't and we know we can't settle that so quickly.
But despite that divergence of view, it would seem to me that
there are areas where we can find some common ground on this
question. And as you study the abortion issue and you study the
reasons why women are having abortions, it's always dangerous,
of course, to generalize, but to the extent that I can
generalize, what you will learn is that in many, many cases,
perhaps the preponderance of cases, the women who are having
abortions are young, they're unmarried, and they're poor. And
when a woman is young, unmarried, and poor, and becomes
pregnant, for her, that's a crisis. That is a very serious