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LB 425

children for adoption. And I'd ask for your favorable consideration of AM1374. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on AM1374, offered by Senator Foley. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Foley amendment. Senator Thompson, followed by Senators Chambers, Don Pederson, Schimek, Howard, Combs, Stuthman, and Kruse. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I've been talking with Senator Foley this morning about the technical aspects of this bill. And on its surface, when you read it, I guess it comes not too far from some of the things that I've worked on over the years. And so I don't come with animosity to helping pregnant women. In fact, when I was a county commissioner, I chaired the health committee of the Sarpy County Board, we did a needs assessment of health in Sarpy County, and found that the top...one of the top needs was services for pregnant and parenting teens. And I worked with school nurses, and we started a program, school-based for pregnant and parenting teens in the county. So I don't come with any concern about providing services to pregnant women. My concern is that the bill is drafted to the general TANF money, not to the bonus money. And I have a concern about the appropriations process, because we provide an appropriation based on what is recommended by the department for the needs for TANF...I mean, not TANF, but we call it ADC, Aid to Dependent Children. And I don't think we should tamper with that amount. We haven't done that historically, or amended from the floor to use those funds for another purpose. I've talked with Senator Foley. I believe the bill should be...or, the amendment should be to the bonus money. The bonus money at the beginning of the legislative process...and to give you a little information about that, I'm sure Senator Pederson is going to talk about that. This money was to be directed toward improving the system, equipment purchases, training, so that we can continue to receive the bonus money as a state. We've used that to offset the General Fund. It's a fairly recent thing. But we haven't had money there for other purposes until this year, when this other program was suggested. And as Senator Foley said, because it was for a specific program, without a bid process, it did run