

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

May 4, 2005

LB 425

programs and services that favor childbirth over abortion. Our own Nebraska statutes embody that concept. Nebraska Code 28-325: "an expression of the will of the people of the state of Nebraska and the members of the Legislature to provide protection for the life of the unborn child whenever possible." That's been in our statute books for years. It's completely within our jurisdiction, completely within our rights under the U.S. Supreme Court decisions and in our own statutes, to offer programs and services to women that favor childbirth. It's okay to favor childbirth over abortion. This TANF program has been on the books now on the federal level for ten years. We've been receiving funds. There's a stream of funds flowing into the state and that stream is going to continue. There's nothing to indicate that our TANF funds have been in any way jeopardized. In fact, we got performance bonuses because we're doing so well under that program. That money is going to continue to flow. I recognize, because I served on the Appropriations Committee for two years, that when you invest as many hours as they do into their package, that there's a great tendency to want to protect the package from any kind of tampering, any kind of changes. I understand that. And they've made a great investment of time and energy into that package, and I appreciate their work because I know what they...how hard they work on that...building that state budget. This amendment does not tamper the work of the Appropriations Committee. Their work stands. I'm not tampering with it. I'm not taking money out of anything that they've appropriated funds for. We've identified some federal funds above and beyond what they've...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FOLEY: ...addressed in their package and we're offering to serve needy women who are pregnant and need our help. Yes, Senator Thompson, there are some contractual issues. That's not the job of the Legislature to write that contract here on the floor of the Legislature. HHS will do that after they conduct the solicitation process. They will write a contract with the winning grantee and that contract must be in full conformity with federal and state law. They can't go outside of those boundaries. My colleagues, I ask for favorable consideration of AM1374. Thank you. I'll take a machine vote, Mr. President.