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create a new welfare program, and that's exactly what this is, this is a welfare program, that we know that it's effective. I've never done anything like this that didn't have some kind of evaluation component to it, particularly when it's a pilot You know, I'm just kind of dumbfounded by the whole project. thing. And then it sort of dawned on me. I had this epiphany, if you could call it that, and I realized what this is all about. We the Legislature are being played for chumps, and the reason we are being played for chumps is because the Governor has the authority to do this without us. You don't need this amendment to do this. As an Appropriations Committee, we appropriate funds to the department for grant programs from the federal government, and the department decides, within the parameters of those programs, how to spend the money. We don't do this just with HHS. We do this with lots of agencies. sometimes the Governors come in and they kind of tell us what they have in mind. I'd like to think that maybe that's what this was about, but it wouldn't be that if the Governor asked Senator Foley and they had this big news thing about putting it The reason they're asking us to validate this is because in two years, when the money runs out, you are going to be held You're going to have to come up with another half accountable. million dollars of General Fund money, when we've blown the money to stay in compliance to get this money in the first place. You're the ones, and I'm not going to be here. Those of you who are, you know, that's what I was thinking about in the middle of the night. I thought, why should I even weigh in on this? Because I care about the people we serve and I care about the children, and if we're going to spend \$500,000, it sure as heck had better be for an effective program. And it can be done The only reason this is coming up in the without us. Legislature is this is going to be one heck of a mess two years from now--a program that doesn't have an evaluation component; a program that's for one provider, which I think we need to think about as a future amendment if this doesn't pass. That's We have lots of Nebraska one provider. \$500,000 for organizations that can do this work and, instead of just picking one, we should be looking at multiples. The reason we're being asked to do this is because this is set up to be a mess, and it got brought to the previous Governor and the current Governor for political reasons. I like the idea of serving pregnant