

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

May 5, 2005

LB 425

SENATOR JENSEN: ...there's no question about it. This is a pilot program. If the funding isn't there in two years, it doesn't go on.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Foley, followed by Senator Johnson.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you again, Mr. President. The...you know, when you offer legislative language on the floor here, whether it's a bill or a constitutional amendment or an amendment to someone else's bill, you try to anticipate where the opposition is going to come from and what arguments might be tossed back at you, and I guess I didn't think this thing through as carefully as perhaps I should have, because I would never have anticipated, I would never have anticipated the argument that Senator Howard brought to the floor and that the need is already being met. In fact, she said the need is more than being met. Oh, I don't think so, Senator Howard. I don't think so at all. That's not what we're seeing in the state of Nebraska. It's not what we're seeing anywhere in this country. What we're seeing is that women who are young, unmarried, poor and pregnant are in crisis, and they're turning to abortion as a solution. We have a program here that says, my friend, you're not alone; there are resources; we do want to stand by you and help you through this. What could be so offensive about that? To say that we've got all these 26 agencies that are already dealing with this, yeah, right. They operate on bake sales. There's one this weekend that's having a walk in the park that asked me to come over and walk with them for a couple of hours. If they have a good day, they might raise a few thousand dollars. There's a tremendous need here to help women who are pregnant and lack the financial resources and are hurting, a tremendous need. Senator Kruse acknowledged that and I appreciate his comments. Senator Raikes says don't tamper with the Appropriations Committee work. Seems to me I saw a Senator Raikes amendment coming up a little bit later trying to change the Appropriations Committee package. Ouch. Well, I think the debate is getting just a bit stale.