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lose children to foster care. We can't afford to lose children to abuse. We can't be a state that walks away from this. It pretty much comes down to that. I ask you for your support with this. This is a crucial program. This is a critical need. I will say, the visiting nurses are doing a wonderful job. They've told me stories of visits that they've made to homes, mothers they've supported. But they can't meet the need when they're only funded for 50 families. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard and Senator Aguilar. Senator Louden, followed by Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I support Senator Howard's amendment here for this program. I've visited with people out in western Nebraska that have...working with this program, and it is working. This is something where the way some of the lifestyles are nowadays, there's extended families and there's young women that will have children and they don't have a close-knit family where they learn childcare from some of their older family members, so they have no idea how to care for children. So the nurses go out and actually teach them how to actually change their diapers. I've...one of the nurses told me that one of the gals came back after a few days and wanted to know when they were supposed to change the diapers on their baby. These are the things that are making a difference. The hospital directors have said that they...a lot of their emergency room calls are from young mothers with children and they don't know what to do when they're coughing, or how long should they cough before they do something, and what is a fever like, and that sort of thing. So this is something that actually saves money in many areas. It cuts down on our emergency room calls in the hospitals. They feel that when they have nurses that work with these mothers like that in these hospitals, that it makes a difference on their operation of their emergency room expenses. And of course, this is something that it's usually the people on the lower end of the pay scale that need this kind of help. This isn't affluent people that usually require these services. It's people that actually it does some good. It's done in the Scottsbluff area. It was one of the pilot projects. Prenatal care is quite important, and this is something, this is being