

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

March 15, 2006      LB 1060

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, which is dealing with adolescent juveniles with crime problems. And the headline is, prenatal and early childhood visitation, nurse home visitation. And this is the doctoral study that a lot of the work that's been done in this area has been based on. It's a longitudinal study with incredible research results behind it. There have been many other studies that confirm it, and it is a way to save money. An 80 percent reduction in the rates of child maltreatment among at-risk families for birth through the second year, which gets to the issues that have been discussed earlier; a 56 percent reduction in the rates of children's healthcare encounters for injuries and ingestions from birth through the child's second birthday; a 43 percent reduction in subsequent pregnancy among low-income unmarried women in the child's...by the child's first birthday; an 83 percent increase in the rates of the labor force participation by the child's fourth birthday. But to get to the issue that I brought up at the beginning, there are fewer arrests, fewer convictions, fewer violations of probation, fewer lifetime sex partners, fewer cigarettes smoked per day, fewer lifetime days of having consumed alcohol, on and on and on. And this is a model program. It is a nurse visitation program. And it's a way to save money. Straight up, costs us a lot for...a little bit of money for a long, long benefit. And that's what we should be about, and those should be what we're investing in. And I support this effort, and I hope you support the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Further discussion on the Howard amendment. Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the body. I thank Senator Thompson for standing up and addressing this issue. And she's absolutely right, this saves money. This is a new way of thinking about child protection services. And believe me, when the visiting nurses put this program into place and started working this in the fall, Health and Human Services was really not ready for the concept. They wanted to assign cases to the visiting nurses where there was already a court adjudication, where there were already children in foster care, which is not what this program is about. This is an early visitation program. This is for families, young families, young