

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate  
February 26, 2015

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[LB77 LB315 LB396 LB599 LR59 LR60 LR61 LR83 LR84 LR85 LR86]

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: GOOD MORNING. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS PASTOR ROGER CRISER, HARRISON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, LA VISTA, NEBRASKA. HE RESIDES IN SENATOR SMITH'S DISTRICT. PLEASE RISE.

PASTOR CRISER: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU. I CALL TO ORDER THE THIRTY-FOURTH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. RECORD, MR. CLERK.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: ARE THERE ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS.

SPEAKER HADLEY: MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: I HAVE NEITHER MESSAGES, REPORTS, NOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AT THIS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION AND CAPABLE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS, I PROPOSE TO SIGN AND DO HERE BY SIGN LR59, LR60, AND LR61. WE WILL NOW GO TO LEGISLATIVE CONFIRMATION REPORTS. MR. CLERK. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 641.) [LR59 LR60 LR61]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LEGISLATIVE CONFIRMATION REPORT FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. SENATOR SULLIVAN, I HAVE TWO APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 625.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO REPORT.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. AS WAS SO NOTED, THESE ARE TWO REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES. THE FIRST

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ONE IS MICHELLE SUAREZ WHO IS A PRINCIPAL AT EVERETT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN LINCOLN. SHE HOLDS A BACHELOR'S OF SCIENCE DEGREE AND MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN. MS. SUAREZ WAS INITIALLY APPOINTED TO COMPLETE THE TERM VACATED BY WILLA KOSMAN IN DECEMBER OF 2007. MS. SUAREZ WAS RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON AN 8-0 VOTE. THE SECOND REAPPOINTMENT IS JESS D. ZEISS WHO IS MANAGING DIRECTOR AT FIRST NATIONAL CAPITAL MARKET. MR. ZEISS IS A GRADUATE OF DOANE COLLEGE AND THE STONIER GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BANKING. MR. ZEISS WAS INITIALLY APPOINTED IN FEBRUARY OF 2014 TO COMPLETE THE TERM VACATED BY WILLIAM ROSKENS. MR. ZEISS WAS RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE BY AN 8-0 VOTE, AND I RECOMMEND APPOINTMENT OF THESE TWO REAPPOINTMENTS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT? SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE REPORT. SENATOR SULLIVAN WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OFFERED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD, MR. CLERK.

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 641-642) 30 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE REPORT IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK, WE'LL PROCEED TO THE NEXT CONFIRMATION REPORT.

CLERK: THE SECOND REPORT INVOLVES TWO APPOINTMENTS TO THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT OFFERED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 625.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE CONFIRMATION REPORT.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AS WAS SO NOTED, THESE ARE TWO REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT. THE FIRST ONE IS LINDA POOLE WHO IS FILLING THE REQUIRED ROLE THAT ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE BE A PRACTICING TEACHER. MRS. POOLE RESIDES IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA, AND IS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER FOR PAPHILLION-LA VISTA SCHOOLS WHERE SHE HAS WORKED SINCE 2006. MRS. POOLE HAS SERVED ON THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FROM ITS INCEPTION IN 2008. MRS. POOLE

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WAS RECOMMENDED FOR REAPPOINTMENT BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON AN 8-0 VOTE. THE SECOND REAPPOINTMENT IS DR. RICHARD SAWYER WHO IS FILLING ONE OF THE REQUIRED NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EXPERT POSITIONS ON THE BOARD. DR. SAWYER IS A SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST FOR THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY AND TESTING COMPANY ACT WHERE HE WORKS IN THE AREA OF STUDENT PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE AND COURSE PLACEMENT. DR. SAWYER HAS PREVIOUSLY HELD POSITIONS OF STATISTICIAN, DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, ALL AT ACT. DR. SAWYER HAS SERVED ON THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FROM ITS INCEPTION IN 2008. DR. SAWYER WAS ALSO RECOMMENDED FOR REAPPOINTMENT BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON AN 8-0 VOTE. I REQUEST THE APPROVAL OF THESE REAPPOINTMENTS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT? SEEING NONE, SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE REPORT. SENATOR SULLIVAN WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OFFERED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD, MR. CLERK.

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 642-643.) 32 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON ADOPTION OF THE REPORT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE REPORT IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK, THE NEXT REPORT.

CLERK: THE THIRD REPORT, MR. PRESIDENT, INVOLVES AN APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS AND FUNDS. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 625.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE CONFIRMATION REPORT.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND IT WAS NOTED THIS IS A REAPPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS AND FUNDS. THE INDIVIDUAL INVOLVED IS GLENN WILSON, JUNIOR. MR. WILSON IS A RESIDENT OF GRAND ISLAND. MR. WILSON WOULD FILL THE POSITION ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL LANDS AND FUNDS THAT REQUIRES THAT ONE MEMBER BE COMPETENT IN THE FIELD OF INVESTMENTS. MR. WILSON MEETS THIS REQUIREMENT AS EVIDENCED BY HIS OVER 30 YEARS IN THE BANKING INDUSTRY FROM WHICH HE RETIRED IN 2011 WORKING FOR THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. MR. WILSON WAS RECOMMENDED FOR REAPPOINTMENT BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON AN 8-0 VOTE, AND I

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REQUEST THE APPROVAL OF THIS REAPPOINTMENT. THANK YOU.

SPEAKER HADLEY: IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT? SEEING NONE, SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE REPORT. SENATOR SULLIVAN WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OFFERED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED? RECORD, MR. CLERK.

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 643.) 33 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE CONFIRMATION REPORT IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK, WE'LL PROCEED TO THE NEXT CONFIRMATION REPORT.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE FOURTH AND FINAL REPORT FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE INVOLVES THE APPOINTMENT OF PATRICIA KIRCHER TO THE EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 625.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SULLIVAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE CONFIRMATION REPORT.

SENATOR SULLIVAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MRS. PATRICIA KIRCHER IS A REAPPOINTMENT TO THE NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION. MRS. KIRCHER WOULD FILL ONE OF THE SIX PUBLIC AT-LARGE APPOINTMENTS OF THE COMMISSION. SHE IS A RESIDENT OF OMAHA WHERE SHE IS A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER OF TRES UNIQUE DECORATIVE ARTS. MRS. KIRCHER HAS BEEN EXTENSIVELY INVOLVED WITH CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS OVER THE YEARS, HAVING VOLUNTEERED FOR PROJECTS IN THE OMAHA AREA RANGING FROM THE FOOD BANK OF THE HEARTLAND TO THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GALA, TO PROJECTS FOR THE ROSE THEATER. MRS. KIRCHER WAS RECOMMENDED FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE...BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE ON AN 8-0 VOTE, AND I REQUEST THE APPOINTMENT OF THIS POSITION. THANK YOU.

SPEAKER HADLEY: IS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ON THE REPORT? SEEING NONE, SENATOR SULLIVAN WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OFFERED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE. ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. MR. CLERK, REPORT.

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 643-644.) 33 AYES, 0

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NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE CONFIRMATION REPORT IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, IF I MAY BEFORE WE PROCEED TO GENERAL FILE, NEW RESOLUTIONS: SENATOR LARSON LR83, LR84, LR85, LR86 ALL WILL BE LAID OVER. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 644-646.) [LR83 LR84 LR85 LR86]

MR. PRESIDENT, LB77 ON GENERAL FILE, A BILL ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY SENATOR NORDQUIST. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 8, REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE. THE BILL WAS ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. THERE ARE HEALTH COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS PENDING. (AM109 LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 449.) [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB77. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER AND COLLEAGUES, GOOD MORNING. LB77 IS A BILL DEDICATED TO PREVENTIVE HEALTH FOR NEBRASKA WOMEN. THERE ARE TWO COMPONENTS TO LB77. THE BILL REQUIRES OUR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO APPLY FOR A STATE PLAN AMENDMENT FOR PURPOSES OF EXPANDING MEDICAID FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES FOR PERSONS WHOSE EARNED INCOME IS AT OR BELOW 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. SO FOR A FAMILY OF THREE, THAT WOULD BE \$36,000 A YEAR. SINCE THE 1990s, STATES AROUND THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING FOR DECADES. TWENTY-NINE STATES NOW OFFER THESE SERVICES. THE REIMBURSABLE 90 PERCENT BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE STATE'S SHARE IS 10 PERCENT. AGAIN, THIS HAS BEEN HAPPENING SINCE THE 1990s. THE BILL ALSO...THE SECOND COMPONENT OF THE BILL, IT WOULD ALSO APPROPRIATE, \$1 MILLION OVER TWO YEARS TO THE EVERY WOMAN MATTERS PROGRAM WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. THIS PROGRAM IS DEDICATED TOWARDS CANCER SCREENINGS FOR LOW-INCOME WOMEN, FOR MAMMOGRAMS, BREAST EXAMS, PAP SMEARS, AND ASSOCIATED LABORATORY COSTS FOR WOMEN WHO DO NOT HAVE OTHER MEANS TO PAY. THESE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OR AT LOW COST TO WOMEN AT OR BELOW 100 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL AND WITH A VERY SMALL DONATION REQUEST FOR THOSE ABOVE 100 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL UP TO 225 PERCENT, ALTHOUGH WE STILL ARE NOT REACHING ALL OF THE WOMEN WHO NEED IT. ABOUT 778 CLINICS IN THE STATE, CLINICS, HOSPITALS, AND FACILITIES PERFORM SERVICES FOR THE EVERY WOMAN MATTERS

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PROGRAM; AND TO DATE, ALMOST 1,500 WOMEN HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED THROUGH THE PROGRAM AND HAVE RECEIVED SERVICES WITH THE MEDICAID WOMEN'S CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM FOR CANCER TREATMENT. OUR NEIGHBORING STATES GOING BACK TO THE FAMILY PLANNING WAIVER, NEIGHBORING STATES OF IOWA, MISSOURI, AND WYOMING ALL PROVIDE THESE SERVICES. I INTRODUCED THIS BILL BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO FOR NEBRASKA WOMEN AND NEBRASKA FAMILIES AND NEBRASKA BABIES. IT WILL SAVE THE STATE, AS EVIDENCED IN THE FISCAL NOTE AND BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS A YEAR. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, AS SOMEONE WHO IS PRO-LIFE, IT WILL HELP REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES AND REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ABORTIONS IN OUR STATE. A FOCUS ON PREVENTION AND WOMEN'S HEALTH WILL HELP CREATE HEALTHIER FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AND WILL REDUCE HEALTH COSTS, AS WELL AS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS IN THE LONG RUN. HALF OF ALL PREGNANCIES IN THE UNITED STATES ARE UNINTENDED. THEY'RE HIGHLY CONCENTRATED AMONG LOW-INCOME WOMEN AND HAVE HIGH BURDENS ON TAXPAYERS. ONE STUDY BY THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTE ESTIMATES THAT TAXPAYER SPENDING ON MEDICAID SUBSIDIZED MEDICAL CARE RELATED TO UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES TOTALS \$12 BILLION ANNUALLY. THAT'S MORE MONEY THAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPENDS ON HEAD START OR EARLY HEAD START PROGRAMS. AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY THAN INTENDED PREGNANCIES TO BE TERMINATED, AND UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES DO ACCOUNT FOR 90 PERCENT OF ALL ABORTIONS. ACCORDING TO A STUDY IN MILBANK QUARTERLY WHICH LOOKED AT POPULATION HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY, IN 2010 CARE PROVIDED TO PUBLICLY SUPPORTED FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES ACROSS THE COUNTRY IS PROVIDED TO ABOUT 9 MILLION POOR AND LOW-INCOME WOMEN TO HELP AVERT. AND THOSE INVESTMENTS HELPED AVERT 2.2 MILLION UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES OF WHICH IF THOSE PREGNANCIES HAD BEEN MOVED FORWARD, 1.1 MILLION WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN A BIRTH; 360,000 IN A MISCARRIAGE; AND 760,000 IN ABORTIONS. THE NET SAVINGS OF THOSE SERVICES WAS OVER \$10.5 BILLION TO THE PUBLIC TRUST FUNDS. AS I SAID, AS SOMEONE WHO IS PRO-LIFE, I VOTED FOR SPEAKER FLOOD'S 20-WEEK BILL. I WAS A COSPONSOR OF SENATOR FULTON'S ULTRASOUND BILL BACK IN 2009 THAT PASSED THIS LEGISLATURE. BUT THIS BILL UNDOUBTEDLY WILL PREVENT MORE UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES AND PREVENT MORE ABORTIONS THAN ANYTHING THIS LEGISLATURE HAS DONE IN RECENT YEARS. THIS BILL CARRIES STRONG SUPPORT FROM MEDICAL ESTABLISHMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR STATE BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT INVESTING IN PREVENTION IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. CONSERVATIVE STATES AROUND THE COUNTRY HAVE TAKEN UP THIS OPTION. AS I SAID, OUR NEIGHBORING STATE OF WYOMING; GOVERNOR RICK

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PERRY IN TEXAS ESTABLISHED A PROGRAM LIKE THIS; GOVERNOR NIKKI HALEY IN SOUTH CAROLINA JUST THIS YEAR EXPANDED THEIR PROGRAM. AND ESSENTIALLY WHAT THE FEDS TELL US WITH THE FAMILY PLANNING STATE PLAN AMENDMENT IS THAT WE COVER PREGNANT WOMEN RIGHT NOW TO 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. IF A WOMAN GETS PREGNANT AND THEY'RE BELOW 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, WE COVER THEIR PREGNANCY-RELATED SERVICES. THE FEDS, THROUGH THIS PROGRAM, FOR DECADES NOW HAVE SAID, LOOK, WE WILL PAY TO HELP YOU PREVENT THOSE PREGNANCIES IF THE WOMEN DON'T WANT TO GET PREGNANT, UP TO THAT SAME INCOME LEVEL. SO YOU HAVE A WOMAN WHO IS BELOW 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. SHE GETS PREGNANT, WE PAY FOR ALL THOSE COSTS. WE'RE SAYING JUST WITH THIS BILL, LOOK, WE'LL HELP HER PLAN HER PREGNANCY IF SHE CHOOSES. WE'LL HELP HER PROVIDE CONTRACEPTION. IF SHE'S HAD A BIRTH RECENTLY, WE'LL HELP HER UNDERSTAND THE NEED TO SPACE PREGNANCIES APPROPRIATELY, AND THAT'S WHY GROUPS LIKE THE MARCH OF DIMES ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THIS BECAUSE THEY KNOW IT PROVIDES THE INFORMATION NEEDED FOR WOMEN TO HAVE HEALTHY BABIES. AND AGAIN, WHEN THAT WOMAN GETS PREGNANT, WE PAY FOR IT IN MEDICAID. THAT'S WHY IF YOU LOOK AT THE FISCAL NOTE AND I'VE BEEN ONE WHO'S BROUGHT A LOT OF BILLS TO THE HEALTH COMMITTEE AND OFTEN ARGUE, SAY, IF WE INVEST A DOLLAR HERE, WE'RE GOING TO SAVE, THERE IS RESEARCH THAT SHOWS WE'LL SAVE THIS MUCH ON THE BACK END. BUT NEVER HAVE I BROUGHT A BILL AND HAD THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SAY WHAT I SAID. USUALLY THEY SAY NO, SENATOR NORDQUIST. THIS IS GOING TO COST US \$10 MILLION OR \$20 MILLION. BUT THIS TIME THE PROOF IS ON THE FISCAL NOTE. THIS BILL IN THIS BIENNIUM WILL SAVE THE STATE GENERAL FUND \$10 MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND CONFIRMED BY THE FISCAL OFFICE. WHY? BECAUSE THE 29 STATES THAT HAVE DONE THIS, THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH EVIDENCE PUT FORWARD AND RESEARCH DONE ON THIS THAT THE COST SAVINGS ARE SO REAL THAT WE CAN REDUCE OUR MEDICAID BUDGET BY GOING FORWARD \$10 MILLION...IT'S ACTUALLY \$11.9 MILLION NEXT YEAR IN FISCAL YEAR '16-17, AND GOING FORWARD BEYOND THAT, \$13 MILLION A YEAR. AND WE'RE NOT JUST SHIFTING COSTS ONTO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. NO. WE'RE ACTUALLY HELPING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REDUCE THEIR COST, TOO, BY THE TUNE OF \$8 MILLION NEXT YEAR AND \$14.5 MILLION EVERY YEAR AFTER THAT. BECAUSE AGAIN, IF WOMEN DON'T WANT TO GET PREGNANT BUT THEY DO, WE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ARE PICKING UP THE COST FOR THAT PREGNANCY IF THEY'RE BELOW 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. WHY WOULD WE NOT INVEST IN THE PREVENTION ON THE FRONT END? AND WE ALSO ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE FISCAL NOTE TAKE A HALF A MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR OF THE SAVINGS

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AND PUT TOWARDS CANCER SCREENINGS FOR WOMEN AS WELL. FOLKS, THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. CONSERVATIVE GOVERNORS AROUND THE COUNTRY HAVE DONE THIS PROGRAM. THIS, AGAIN, HAS BEEN HAPPENING FOR DECADES. IT IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH ANY OTHER MEDICAID EXPANSION THAT HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT OR WE WILL TALK ABOUT. IT DEFINITELY IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO FISCALLY FOR THE STATE. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO TO PREVENT HEALTHY PREGNANCIES. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO TO REDUCE ABORTIONS IN THIS STATE. I DID HAND OUT A REPORT BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY THAT TALKS ABOUT THE EVIDENCE THAT'S BEEN PRESENTED ON THIS PROGRAM AROUND THE COUNTRY. AND IT LOOKS AT A NUMBER OF STATES. YOU KNOW, THE STATES THAT THEY LOOKED AT IN PARTICULAR... [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ...THE STUDY THAT THE CMS DID UNDER THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ON THIS PROGRAM SHOWS THAT STATES LIKE ALABAMA AVERTED 3,600 BIRTHS; CALIFORNIA, 21,000 BIRTHS; SOUTH CAROLINA, IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF 3,000 TO 4,000 BIRTHS A YEAR, SAVING \$23 MILLION A YEAR. THE COST SAVINGS OF THIS PROGRAM ARE REAL. THEY'RE DOCUMENTED. AND THAT \$10 MILLION SAVINGS THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CAN BE UTILIZED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE THIS BODY SO CHOOSES, WHETHER IT'S TAX RELIEF OR EDUCATION INVESTMENT. SENATOR MELLO YESTERDAY HANDED AROUND OUR PRELIMINARY BUDGET. WE ONLY HAVE \$50 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR TAX RELIEF FOR OTHER PROGRAMS ON THIS FLOOR. THIS WOULD ENHANCE THAT BY \$10 MILLION BY ADVANCING LB77. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) AS THE CLERK STATED, THERE ARE AMENDMENTS FROM THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE AMENDMENTS. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. LET ME PULL IT UP HERE REAL QUICK. SIMPLY THE AMENDMENT SIMPLY SAYS ON PAGE 4 THE FUNDS THAT WE PUT TOWARDS EVERY WOMAN MATTERS, WE SAID THEY COULD BE USED IN ADDITION TO THE CANCER SCREENINGS FOR EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. EVERY WOMAN MATTERS DOESN'T DO ANYTHING WITH FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. SO WE STRIKE THAT LANGUAGE AND THAT'S WHAT THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT DOES. THAT SIMPLY REMOVES A LITTLE LANGUAGE OUT OF EVERY WOMAN MATTERS. EVERY WOMAN MATTERS, AGAIN, IS JUST THE CANCER SCREENING PORTION FOR LOW-INCOME WOMEN. THE FAMILY

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PLANNING SERVICES COMPONENT IS UNDER THE STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.  
THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR RIEPE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR RIEPE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AS A MEMBER OF THE HHS COMMITTEE, I STAND IN OPPOSITION OF THIS LEGISLATION. AND I THINK THE IMPLICATION IS THAT THERE IS NO SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR WOMEN IN THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM. AND I WANTED TO GO BACK TO A DOCUMENT THAT I DID HAND OUT THAT TALKS...IT'S FROM THE STATE HHS AND AS SENATOR NORDQUIST NOTED, THIS IS EXPANDED MEDICAID. I AM IN OPPOSITION TO EXPANDED MEDICAID. AND THIS PARTICULAR DOCUMENT THAT I SHARED WITH YOU AND I READ PARTS OF IT, IT SAYS: THE EVERY WOMAN MATTERS PROGRAM IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROGRAM THAT PAYS FOR THE OFFICE VISITS WITH ASSOCIATED PAP SMEARS, PELVIC EXAMS, CLINICAL BREAST EXAMS, AND LAB FEES. AGE APPROPRIATE MAMMOGRAPHIES IS ALSO COVERED AS WELL AS A LIMITED NUMBER OF DIAGNOSTIC TESTS. THE PROGRAM PROVIDES SCREENING SERVICES TO MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED WOMEN AGES 40 TO 74. FUNDING IS AWARDED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION. IT ALSO GOES ON TO SAY IN THE FOURTH BULLET POINT: NEBRASKA HAS COVERAGE ACROSS THE STATE FOR SERVICES. ABOUT 778 HEALTHCARE CLINICS/OFFICES, HOSPITALS, MAMMOGRAPHY FACILITIES/RADIOLOGY GROUPS, AND LABORATORIES PERFORM SERVICES FOR THE EWM PROGRAM. ALL COUNTIES IN NEBRASKA ARE SERVICED BY COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO PROMOTE THE SCREENING PROGRAM, ENROLL ELIGIBLE CLIENTS, AND PROVIDE HEALTH EDUCATION ACTIVITIES IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES. PARTNERS ALSO DECREASE BARRIERS TO CLIENTS AND HELP CLIENTS ACCESS PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE SERVICES. I STAND THAT THIS PROGRAM DOES EXIST AND THAT THIS PROGRAM IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXPANSION OF MEDICAID IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. WITH THAT, I YIELD ANY TIME BACK TO SENATOR NORDQUIST IF HE'D LIKE IT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU ARE YIELDED 2:45. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: HE YIELDED IT TO ME? THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YES. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR RIEPE. I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE SENATOR RIEPE'S EXPLANATION THERE. THE ISSUE WITH THE EVERY WOMAN MATTERS PROGRAM IS THAT EVEN THOUGH IT IS ESTABLISHED, WE DO RECEIVE \$3 MILLION ANNUALLY TO PROVIDE THESE

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SCREENINGS. THE CANCER SOCIETY AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS BASICALLY SAY WE'RE ABOUT \$2.5 MILLION SHORT OF GETTING THE REACH WE NEED TO REACH ALL THE LOW-INCOME WOMEN THAT DON'T HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE EITHER THROUGH MEDICAID OR THROUGH PRIVATE INSURANCE. NOW IF WE EXPANDED MEDICAID IN THAT OTHER DISCUSSION, THEY WOULD HAVE FULL HEALTH COVERAGE AND WOULD BE ABLE TO GET THAT. BUT RIGHT NOW WITHOUT THAT, THESE WOMEN ARE LOW-INCOME WORKERS. THEY'RE WORKING IN YOUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS OR YOUR FAVORITE RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT. THEY DON'T HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE AND WE'RE NOT REACHING ALL OF THEM. SO WE'RE NOT EVEN GOING TO GET TO WHAT, YOU KNOW, GROUPS LIKE THE CANCER SOCIETY SAY WE NEED TO MAKE AS FAR AS AN INVESTMENT, BUT WE'RE GOING TO PUT A HALF A MILLION DOLLARS MORE INTO THIS PROGRAM. THE STATE DOES HAVE I THINK IT'S ABOUT \$300,000 OF AN INVESTMENT NOW. THIS WILL HELP WITH OUTREACH EFFORTS, MAKING SURE WE REACH THEM, AND HELP PROVIDE FOR MORE CANCER SCREENINGS BECAUSE THOSE UNINSURED WOMEN, IF THEIR CANCER GETS TO STAGE 3, STAGE 4, THEY HAVE AN EMERGENCY CONDITION, FOLKS, WE KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING. THEY'RE GOING TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM WITHOUT INSURANCE. SO WHAT WE'RE DOING IS WE'RE UTILIZING THE TREMENDOUS SAVINGS OF THE FAMILY PLANNING WAIVER, WHICH SAVES \$11 MILLION A YEAR FOR THE STATE. WE'RE GOING TO GRAB A HALF A MILLION DOLLARS OF THAT AND INVEST IN THE CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM. SO THAT'S WHY WE PUT THESE BILLS TOGETHER, THESE COMPONENTS TOGETHER, BECAUSE IT IS A PACKAGE. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: IT'S A PACKAGE THAT INVESTS IN PREVENTION. IT'S A PACKAGE THAT WILL SAVE THE STATE MONEY AND WILL MAKE SURE THAT LOW-INCOME WOMEN IN OUR STATE CAN PREVENT PREGNANCIES WHEN THEY DON'T WANT TO GET PREGNANT, THEY HAVE HEALTHY PREGNANCIES, AND THEY CAN GET CANCER SCREENINGS WHEN THEY'RE UNINSURED. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE NEXT IN THE QUEUE. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. THIS CERTAINLY...I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE DISCUSSION. SENATOR MELLO YESTERDAY HANDED OUT THE BUDGET BOOK, OUR PRELIMINARY STATE BUDGET. AND ON PAGE 4 YOU'LL SEE OUR EXCESS FROM THE MINIMUM RESERVE IS \$51 MILLION. ESSENTIALLY WHAT WE SAY IS THAT'S MONEY FOR THE FLOOR, \$51 MILLION. NOW WE'VE BEEN GETTING A LOT OF PRESSURE IN APPROPRIATIONS TO MATCH THE GOVERNOR'S NUMBER WHEN IT COMES TO

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PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO GO TO ACTUALLY, GET TO \$60 MILLION. WE PUT \$45 MILLION IN THE BUDGET RIGHT NOW A YEAR FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. I KNOW MYSELF, I KNOW SENATOR KINTNER AND OTHERS WOULD LIKE TO GET TO \$60 MILLION OF PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. IF WE DO THAT, THE MONEY, QUOTE, UNQUOTE, MONEY FOR THE FLOOR IS REDUCED BY \$15 MILLION A YEAR OR \$30 MILLION OVER THE BIENNIUM. THAT MEANS WE ONLY HAVE \$20 MILLION LEFT FOR THE FLOOR THIS YEAR. THE FIRST THING WE GOT TO FUND IS CORRECTIONS. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH SENATOR SEILER AND SENATOR MELLO AND OTHERS ARE LOOKING AT FUNDING CHANGES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, BUT THAT'S GOING TO EAT UP A SIGNIFICANT PORTION, IF NOT ALL OF THAT \$20 MILLION. I KNOW THERE ARE OTHER PRIORITIES. THERE ARE A LOT OF BILLS IN REVENUE COMMITTEE THAT SENATOR GLOOR WOULD LIKE TO MOVE FORWARD AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. I BROUGHT A FEW OF THEM THAT I THINK ARE REALLY GOOD IDEAS, BUT WE'LL SEE IF THEY COME FORWARD. BUT THAT NUMBER GETS SMALL REALLY QUICK. WITH LB77, THIS IS ACTUAL SAVINGS THAT GETS ADDED TO THAT BOTTOM LINE NUMBER, A \$10 MILLION INCREASE TO THAT BOTTOM LINE THAT CAN BE USED FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, THAT CAN BE USED FOR OTHER TAX CHANGES, WHETHER IT'S THE AG EXEMPTION THAT THE GOVERNOR PRIORITIZED OR OTHER PIECES. WE CAN'T AFFORD EVERYTHING THAT'S OUT THERE RIGHT NOW, BUT THIS BILL IS A \$10 MILLION NET PLUS TO OUR BOTTOM LINE; AND WE'RE NOT, AGAIN, WE'RE NOT SHIFTING COSTS ONTO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WE'RE REDUCING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SPENDING AT THE SAME TIME BY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS A YEAR. THIS IS THE MOST FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE BILL WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTHCARE BECAUSE WE ARE INVESTING IN PREVENTION AND ACTUALLY REDUCING EXPENDITURES FOR BOTH THE STATE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: IN THE QUEUE IS SENATOR KOLTERMAN, SENATOR KINTNER, SENATOR McCOLLISTER, SENATOR BRASCH, SENATOR RIEPE, SENATOR GLOOR. SENATOR KOLTERMAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. YOU KNOW, I WAS ALSO ON THE COMMITTEE THAT HEARD THIS BILL, AND I VOTED AGAINST IT COMING OUT OF COMMITTEE. WHEN I FIRST LOOKED AT THIS BILL, I LOOKED AT IT AND I THOUGHT, WOW. AT FIRST BLUSH, THIS IS NOT A BAD BILL WHEN I SAW EVERY WOMAN MATTERS. EVERY WOMAN DOES MATTER TO ME. THERE ISN'T A WOMAN ON THIS EARTH THAT WE SHOULDN'T BE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR GENERAL HEALTH, THEIR WELL-BEING. IN FACT, I HAVE FIVE WOMEN IN MY LIFE THAT ARE VERY CLOSE TO ME AND THEY MATTER A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT TO ME. BUT THIS BILL REALLY, ALL WE'RE DOING HERE, WE'RE

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BETTING ON THE COME FOR THE SAVINGS. WE'RE ASKING THE TAXPAYERS TO FUND DOLLARS TO PAY FOR CONTRACEPTION. I MEAN, THAT'S REALLY THE GIST OF THIS BILL. AND WE ALL KNOW WHERE THE BULK OF THAT MONEY IS GOING TO GO. THE BULK OF THIS MONEY PROBABLY IS GOING TO END UP IN THE HANDS OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD WHERE THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COUNSEL PEOPLE FOR FAMILY PLANNING. THE THING I LIKED ABOUT THE BILL WAS THE FACT THAT WOMEN COULD HAVE MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING, A WOMAN COULD HAVE PAP SMEARS, AND ANY OTHER KIND OF TESTING THAT COULD AFFECT THEM IN THAT REGARD. IF THAT'S ALL WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HERE, I COULD SUPPORT THIS BILL. BUT THE REALITY ISN'T THERE AND, IN FACT, WE DO HAVE SOME OF THAT ALREADY ON THE BOOKS. THE REALITY IS WE APPROPRIATED, WE WERE ONE OF THE FIRST STATES TO GET INTO THE EVERY WOMAN MATTERS ARENA. AND SO THAT'S REALLY A MOOT POINT IN THIS BILL TO ME. THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS BILL THAT HAS A MORE SERIOUS CONCERN TO ME IS THE FACT THAT THIS IS JUST AN ATTEMPT TO EXPAND MEDICAID. AND WHAT WE'RE SEEING IS, I THINK WE'RE GOING TO SEE OVER THE SESSION IS WE'RE GOING TO SEE BITS AND PIECES OF PEOPLE COMING IN WITH SMALLER BILLS, LET'S EXPAND MEDICAID AND SPEND A MILLION DOLLARS HERE OR \$5 MILLION HERE AND \$7 MILLION. SO INSTEAD OF TAKING IT ALL AS AN EXPANDED MEDICAID PROGRAM, WE'RE REALLY LOOKING AT PIECEMEALING IT AND TAKING IT ONE STEP AT A TIME. YOU KNOW, TO SAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS TONS OF MONEY TO GIVE AWAY TO THE STATES IS A FALLACY. AND I CAN TELL YOU FIRSTHAND HOW I'VE BEEN THROUGH THAT IN THE PAST 90 DAYS. I'M IN THE INSURANCE BUSINESS. ON CHRISTMAS EVE, OF ALL DAYS, I GET AN E-MAIL THAT A COMPANY CALLED CoOPPORTUNITY IS GOING OUT OF BUSINESS. AND THE REASON THEY'RE GOING OUT OF BUSINESS IS BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RENEGED ON MONIES THAT THEY WERE PROMISED. THEY RENEGED ON ALL KINDS OF DOLLARS, AND IT PUT A COMPANY INTO A TAILSPIN, WHICH WAS VERY WELL-ACCEPTED IN THIS STATE. WE HAD OVER 60,000 PEOPLE INSURED IN THIS STATE, AND IT WAS SO SUCCESSFUL IT FAILED BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DIDN'T FUND IT. AND THE IRONIC THING ABOUT THAT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SET IT UP. SO WHEN PEOPLE TALK TO ME ABOUT MEDICAID EXPANSION AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, I HAVE A REAL PROBLEM WITH THAT. THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS IS IF YOU REALLY LOOK AT THIS BILL, PEOPLE SAY, WELL, IT'S GOING TO BE A NET SPENDING. WELL, WE DON'T KNOW THAT FOR SURE. WE'RE PLANNING ON THE FACT THAT CONTRACEPTION IS GOING TO CONTROL THE BIRTH RATE. THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY THE CASE. YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU WANT. CONTRACEPTION DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK. IF YOU LOOK INTO THIS BILL, THERE IS 27 NEW FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS THAT ARE GOING TO BE HIRED BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THERE IS 2 REVIEWERS. [LB77]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: SO YOU'VE GOT 29 PEOPLE THAT ARE GOING TO BE HIRED. NOW YOU TELL ME HOW THAT SAVES THE STATE MONEY. THIS IS A REPEAT BILL. THIS BILL WAS BROUGHT ORIGINALLY IN 2009, 2011, 2013, AND NOW IT'S RESURFACED AGAIN IN 2015. I JUST CAN'T SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING TO DO WHAT IT'S INTENDED TO DO. IF IT'S FAMILY PLANNING, I'M AGAINST THAT. I DON'T FEEL THE STATE SHOULD BE PAYING FOR CONTRACEPTION FOR ANYBODY. AND I THINK THAT THAT'S...I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE AGAINST THIS BILL. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR KINTNER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR KINTNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU KNOW, WE FOUGHT BACK MEDICAID EXPANSION MY FIRST YEAR. WE BEAT IT AGAIN LAST YEAR. THIS YEAR LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE KIND OF BROKEN IT UP AND THEN WE'RE GOING TO SEE IT IN A COUPLE DIFFERENT BILLS. AND I GOT TO ADMIRE THE TENACITY OF THE PEOPLE THAT WANT TO PUT OBAMACARE IN NEBRASKA, OBAMACAID AS YOU MIGHT WANT TO CALL IT, AS SOME PEOPLE CALL IT. AND, YOU KNOW, WE'VE ALWAYS SAID THAT ONE SIZE FITS ALL, THE WASHINGTON MODEL DOESN'T WORK, SO YOU BREAK IT UP. YOU SAY, WELL, JUST THIS LITTLE BIT OF IT MAY WORK. AND, YOU KNOW, SENATOR NORDQUIST, I SIT NEXT TO HIM IN APPROPRIATIONS AND I HAVE THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR HIM. WE DON'T ALWAYS GET TO THE SAME PLACE ON EVERY ISSUE, BUT HE'S AN HONEST BROKER OF INFORMATION. WHEN I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT A GOVERNMENT PROGRAM OR SOMETHING, HE'LL TELL ME ABOUT IT. WHEN I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PENSIONS, HE'LL TELL ME HOW IT WORKS AND HE WALKS ME THROUGH STUFF I DON'T KNOW. HE'S THE KIND OF GUY THAT I WANT TO SUPPORT HIS BILLS. I REALLY DO. YOU DEVELOP THESE RELATIONSHIPS AND YOU LIKE PEOPLE AND YOU WANT TO WORK WITH THEM AND I WANT TO WORK WITH HIM. BUT, YOU KNOW, I'VE HEARD SO MANY TIMES, YEAH, WE JUST DO THIS AND IF WE SPEND MONEY, WE WON'T SPEND MONEY OVER HERE. BASICALLY WHAT WE HAVE IS WE HAVE MEDICAID. IT'S OUT OF CONTROL. IT'S BREAKING OUR STATE. IT'S ONE OF THE BIGGEST EXPENDITURES THAT WE MAKE. IT COSTS SO MUCH THAT WHY DON'T WE CREATE THIS NEW PROGRAM OVER HERE? AND IF WE DO THIS NEW PROGRAM OVER HERE, THEY WON'T GET ON THIS OLD EXPENSIVE PROGRAM. I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS WE DO THE NEW PROGRAM. WHEN THAT GOES OUT OF CONTROL, WE CREATE A NEW, NEW PROGRAM SO YOU DON'T GET ON THE NEW PROGRAM WHICH IS KEEPING YOU OFF THE OLD PROGRAM. AND THIS JUST GOES ON AND ON AND ON AND ON AND YOU WONDER WHY WE HAVE A

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WELFARE STATE HERE IN NEBRASKA. THAT IS HOW IT HAPPENS. SO I WOULD RESPECTFULLY ENCOURAGE MY FELLOW SENATORS TO PUT THIS WHERE IT BELONGS AND THAT'S TO BED AND VOTE NO ON THIS. I'M GOING TO APOLOGIZE TO SENATOR NORDQUIST. GENERALLY IF I MENTION YOU, I WILL YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME. BUT SENATOR COASH ASKED ME FOR MY TIME IF I HAD ANY LEFT. I'M GOING TO YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR COASH WITH AN APOLOGY TO SENATOR NORDQUIST. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR COASH, YOU'RE YIELDED 2:30. [LB77]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WOULD SENATOR NORDQUIST YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD SENATOR NORDQUIST YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YES. [LB77]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. HERE IS MY QUESTION. IS THERE ANYTHING PROPOSED IN LB77 THAT COULD NOT BE DONE SHOULD THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID DECIDE THAT THIS IS A WAIVER THAT THEY WANTED TO APPLY FOR ON THEIR OWN? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THEY COULD DO A...THE STATE PLAN AMENDMENT IS VERY SIMPLE. IT'S A CHECK BOX ON OUR STATE MEDICAID APPLICATION. SO THEY, YES, THEY COULD DO THAT. THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD PREVENT IS THE APPROPRIATION TO EVERY WOMAN MATTERS WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATURE. BUT I HAVEN'T TALKED TO THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION. I CERTAINLY KNOW THAT THE LAST ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT INTERESTED, I GUESS, IN MOVING FORWARD WITH THIS OPTION LIKE OTHER GOVERNORS HAVE. [LB77]

SENATOR COASH: OKAY. WELL, THAT...THANK YOU FOR YOUR ANSWER. THAT, COLLEAGUES, IS MY CONCERN WITH LB77. THIS ISN'T SOMETHING WE HAVE TO DO IN LEGISLATION. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE ADMINISTRATIVELY AND WE DO HAVE A NEW ADMINISTRATION THAT COULD DIRECT THIS STATE PLAN AMENDMENT HAPPEN. AND THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD...THIS BODY WOULD HAVE TO DO IS APPROPRIATE THE MONEY TO DO SO. COLLEAGUES, I HAVE SEEN IN MY TIME HERE SOMETHING THAT, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, TROUBLES ME. AND THAT IS WHEN WE AS A LEGISLATURE DECIDE THAT WE ARE GOING TO... [LB77]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THAT WHEN THERE IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DONE ADMINISTRATIVELY, WE ROLL THROUGH IN THIS LEGISLATURE AND SAY, WELL, THIS IS HOW WE'RE GOING TO DO IT. AND I'VE BEEN ON THAT SIDE BEFORE AND I'M OKAY WITH THAT. BUT LET ME TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS FROM MY EXPERIENCE WHEN THE LEGISLATURE DECIDES TO DO SOMETHING THAT THE ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T LIKE. AND BY THE WAY, SENATOR NORDQUIST HAS ALREADY SAID ON THE MIKE THAT HE'S HAD NO CONVERSATIONS WITH THIS ADMINISTRATION, SO WE HAVE NO IDEA IF THEY'RE IN SUPPORT OR NOT. BUT WHEN WE ROLL THROUGH AND THE ADMINISTRATION DISAGREES WITH IT, I WILL TELL YOU WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION DOES. THEY MAKE SURE IT DOESN'T HAPPEN. THEY FIND A WAY TO PUT UP THEIR OWN ROADBLOCKS. AND THIS MAY OR MAY NOT HAPPEN IF WE DO THIS BILL. BUT IT IS SOMETHING THAT I THINK WE OUGHT TO CONSIDER. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (DOCTOR OF THE DAY INTRODUCED.) THOSE IN THE QUEUE ARE SENATOR McCOLLISTER, BRASCH, RIEPE, GLOOR, NORDQUIST AND OTHERS. SENATOR McCOLLISTER. [LB77]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I SPEAK IN FAVOR OF LB77. I'M GENERALLY AGAINST MEDICAID EXPANSION, BUT I DO SUPPORT LB77. I THINK IT'S A RESPONSIBLE, COST-EFFECTIVE PROGRAM FOR NEBRASKA. IT'S GOOD FOR NEBRASKA FAMILIES AND IT'S GOOD FOR NEBRASKA, THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, AND IT'S GOOD FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD YIELD THE BALANCE OF MY TIME TO SENATOR NORDQUIST. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE YIELDED 4:20. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THANK YOU SENATOR McCOLLISTER. I'M GOING TO HAVE MY STAFF AND THE FISCAL OFFICE WRITE ME UP WHAT I SHOULD SAY EXACTLY ON THIS ON THE MIKE, BUT I MISLED SENATOR COASH. I WAS COMPLETELY WRONG. APPARENTLY THERE IS--AND YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY--APPARENTLY THERE IS COURT PRECEDENT THAT THE LEGISLATURE SETS ELIGIBILITY, HAS TO SET ELIGIBILITY FOR...I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S ALL MEDICAID PROGRAMS. I'M GOING TO GET THE EXACT EXPLANATION OF THAT. SO APPARENTLY THIS CANNOT...ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS THE CHECK BOX ON THE STATE APPLICATIONS, AT LEAST WITH THIS PROGRAM AND WE'LL GET THAT CLARIFIED SO EVERYONE HAS A COMPLETE EXPLANATION. SO IT DOES HAVE TO BE A LEGISLATIVE ACTION. BUT TO SOME COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE,

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BOTH...FIRST ABOUT THE COST SAVINGS AND WHETHER OR NOT EXPANDED CONTRACEPTION REDUCES THE NUMBER OF ABORTIONS. THE BEST THING WE CAN DO IS TURN TO THE EVIDENCE THAT'S BEEN...THE REPORTS, THE EVIDENCE, THE STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN DONE ON THIS. AND IN 2002, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CONDUCTED A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE STATES THAT HAVE LOOKED AT THIS AND, YES, IT DID LEAD TO THOUSANDS OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES BEING AVERTED. AND IN ALL OF THOSE STATES, THE STATES THAT THEY STUDIED WERE ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, CALIFORNIA, NEW MEXICO, OREGON, SOUTH CAROLINA. AND AGAIN, THESE STATES HAVE HAD THESE PROGRAMS SINCE THE '90s. SO ANYONE, YOU KNOW, I LOVE SENATOR KINTNER, BUT ANYONE TYING THIS TO OBAMACARE JUST DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THIS PROGRAM, THIS SET OF BENEFITS HAS BEEN AROUND FOR DECADES. AND THE STATES THAT HAVE DONE IT, THE ONES THAT I NAMED OFF, THE STUDY THAT WAS DONE UNDER THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION SAID THAT THE COST SAVINGS WERE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS A YEAR FOR EACH OF THOSE STATES. SO THOSE THAT SAY, YOU KNOW, WE CAN'T JUST PILE MORE ON TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT JUST AREN'T GETTING THE FACT THAT WHEN A WOMAN BELOW 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL HAS AN UNINTENDED PREGNANCY THAT SHE WASN'T PLANNING, TWO UNFORTUNATE THINGS COULD HAPPEN. ONE, SHE COULD TERMINATE THAT PREGNANCY, WHICH IS AT LEAST IN MY MIND, VERY UNFORTUNATE. OR THE SECOND THING, IF SHE CHOOSES AND HOPEFULLY SHE CHOOSES TO CARRY THAT FORWARD, THAT PREGNANCY IS GOING TO BE PAID FOR BY THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WHAT WE'RE SAYING HERE, AND THAT'S WHY THE COST SAVINGS ARE SO DOCUMENTED IN ALL THE STATES THAT HAVE DONE IT. THAT'S WHY THE COST SAVINGS WERE DOCUMENTED BY OUR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WHICH TALKING TO MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE HAVE NEVER COME FORWARD WITH A FISCAL NOTE THAT SHOWED SAVINGS LIKE THIS. THAT'S WHY THOSE SAVINGS ARE REAL, BOTH TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND REAL SAVINGS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. WE'RE JUST SAYING IF YOU'RE BELOW 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL AND YOU GET PREGNANT, WE'RE PAYING FOR THE COST OF THAT PREGNANCY, AND THIS FISCAL NOTE DOES NOT ACCOUNT FOR ALL OF THE COSTS OF THAT CHILD MOVING FORWARD AND RIGHTFULLY SO. BUT IF WE CAN AVERT, WE CAN PREVENT UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES... [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ...IF A WOMAN DOESN'T WANT TO GET PREGNANT AND SAVE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, WHY WOULD WE CHOOSE TO NOT DO THAT? AND WE AREN'T FORCING ANYTHING ON ANYBODY HERE. OBVIOUSLY WE'RE NOT. IF SOMEBODY HAS A MORAL OBJECTION TO CONTRACEPTION,

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THAT WOMAN DOESN'T HAVE TO USE IT BY ANY MEANS. WE ARE GIVING THEM THE OPTION TO HAVE HEALTHY PREGNANCIES WHEN THEY WANT THEM AND HAVE A HEALTHY BIRTH AND A HEALTHY START AT LIFE FOR THAT CHILD. THIS IS A WAY FOR US TO REDUCE UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES, REDUCE ABORTIONS IN THE STATE. THE RESEARCH HAS BEEN CLEAR THAT THESE POLICIES SINCE THE '90s HAVE PREVENTED TENS OF MILLIONS OF ABORTIONS. THAT IS SUBSTANTIAL AND MEANINGFUL AND IT'S A POLICY WE SHOULD MOVE FORWARD WITH IN NEBRASKA. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I RISE IN OPPOSITION TO LB77 AND ALSO AM109. I HAVE CONCERNS. I'M A WOMAN AND I AM CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT I SEE HERE. FROM READING THE ONE LINER HERE, IT SAYS IT REQUIRES A MEDICAID STATE PLAN AMENDMENT FOR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AND STATE INTENT RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS FOR EVERY WOMAN MATTERS PROGRAM. AND WHEN I PULLED UP THE WEB SITE FOR EVERY WOMAN MATTERS, IT CLEARLY SAYS THAT EVERY WOMAN MATTERS IS A PROGRAM THAT CAN HELP YOU PAY FOR YOUR HEALTH CHECKUP. THE WOMAN PROGRAM IS FOR WOMEN BETWEEN AGES OF 40 AND 74 WHO MEET INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES. AND FROM THEIR WEB SITE WHEN YOU READ WHAT THE PROGRAM COVERED, YES, BREAST CANCER; BUT BETWEEN THE AGES OF 40 AND 74, PERHAPS AT 40 YOU NEED INFORMATION ON PLANNING A FAMILY AND STARTING, BUT BY THE TIME YOU GET CLOSER TO 74, THAT MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A PERTINENT CONSIDERATION. AND SO I THINK THEY ARE TWO SEPARATE BILLS. IN THE PAST OUR EXPERIENCE HERE HAS BEEN THAT WE DON'T COMBINE TWO SEPARATE BILLS. ONE, LB77 IS FOR FAMILY PLANNING FOR ALL WOMEN. AND EVERY WOMAN MATTERS, PLANNING FOR FAMILIES AT THAT POINT SEEMS TO BE A CONSIDERATION. SENATOR NORDQUIST, CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHY YOU'RE PUTTING TWO PROGRAMS TOGETHER IN ONE BILL? [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR NORDQUIST, WILL YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THESE BILLS...THESE ISSUES CERTAINLY ARE RELATED. THEY ARE RELATED TO WOMEN'S PREVENTIVE HEALTH, THE SAME HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS ARE PROVIDING THESE SERVICES, AND THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THE COST SAVINGS THAT IS SO SUBSTANTIAL IN THE FAMILY PLANNING STATE PLAN AMENDMENT IS HELPING US PAY AND KEEP THE COST NEUTRAL. ACTUALLY

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STILL EVEN BY SHIFTING A HALF A MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR OVER TO CANCER SCREENINGS, WE ARE STILL SAVING A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY. BUT WE GRAB SOME OF THE SAVINGS TO HELP FUND THE EXPANSION OF CANCER SCREENINGS FOR LOW-INCOME WOMEN. BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, WHEN YOU GO IN FOR A CHECKUP AT YOUR DOCTOR, THAT DOCTOR IS PROVIDING BOTH--COULD BE ESPECIALLY TO THE WOMEN AT THE YOUNGER AGES OF EVERY WOMAN MATTERS--IT'S PROVIDING BOTH SETS OF SERVICES. [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. BUT AS IT READS, THIS ORGANIZATION IS FOR WOMEN 40 TO 74. I CLEARLY THINK THAT YOUNGER WOMEN PERHAPS WOULD BE WHERE LB77 TRULY FITS IN AND IN THAT, I DO NOT SUPPORT. I DON'T BELIEVE OUR STATE DOLLARS SHOULD FOCUS ON THAT, AND I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE TAKE TWO SEPARATE GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS AND WITH SEPARATE PLANS OF HEALTHCARE AND PUT IT INTO ONE BILL. COLLEAGUES, I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE RED ON LB77 AND THE UNDERLYING AMENDMENT. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR RIEPE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR RIEPE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND ALL NEBRASKANS AND ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES HERE IN THE CHAMBER. I WANTED TO GO TO A POINT OF CLARIFICATION ON THE FISCAL NOTE AND THAT IS THAT I THINK THERE IS SOME NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE NOTE. THE CMS, WHICH IS MEDICARE, AND A STUDY THAT'S NOTED, THE SIX STATES THAT WERE STUDIED WITH THIS EXPANDED MEDICAID DETERMINED UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES IN FOUR OF THE SIX STATES. THE TWO STATES APPEARED, AND I EMPHASIZE APPEARED, TO DECREASE UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES. SO THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT THEY WOULD, IN FACT, DO THAT. AND WE CANNOT BASE POLICY ON STATISTICS THAT APPEAR TO DECREASE UNINTENDED PREGNANCY. I ALSO WANTED TO ADDRESS THE THING ON ANYTHING THAT RELATES TO EXPANDED MEDICAID. I THINK THIS SESSION WE'VE SEEN MEDICAID FRACTURED INTO BITS AND PIECES, AND IT'S ALMOST LIKE AN AUTOMOBILE CHOP SHOP WHERE YOU CUT THE CAR UP, SLIP IT THROUGH, REASSEMBLE IT ON THE OTHER SIDE. EXPANDED MEDICAID IS EXPANDED MEDICAID. WE AS AN ELECTIVE GROUP NEED TO SPREADSHEET THIS. WE NEED TO LOOK AT ALL OF THE EXPANDED MEDICAID PIECES AND DETERMINE THE IMPLICATIONS THAT THE ENTIRE PACKAGE WILL HAVE BEFORE WE MOVE FORWARD WITH BITS AND PIECES OF THIS PARTICULAR LEGISLATION. WITH THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, I'D LIKE TO REEMPHASIZE THERE IS SOME DISCREPANCY IN THE FISCAL NOTE THAT IT IS NOT, IN FACT, EVERYTHING THAT IT APPEARS TO BE ON YOUR PINK SLIP THAT YOU HAVE

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UNDER THE FISCAL PIECE. ANY TIME THAT I HAVE REMAINING I'D LIKE TO YIELD TO SENATOR KOLTERMAN IF HE WOULD SO LIKE. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR KOLTERMAN, YOU'RE YIELDED 3:05. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. PRESIDENT. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA OR ANYWHERE FOR THAT MATTER, I HAVE SOME FACTS FROM THE GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE. THEY'RE FROM BACK IN 2010. AND WE TALK ABOUT HOW CONTRACEPTION WORKS AND HOW IT DOESN'T WORK. IN 2010, I BELIEVE, SENATOR NORDQUIST, WOULD YOU CLARIFY FOR ME? WHAT DID YOU SAY THAT THEY INSTALLED THIS PROGRAM? I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION IF THEY INSTALLED THIS PROGRAM IN IOWA. WOULD YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION ON THAT? [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: WOULD SENATOR NORDQUIST YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YES. YOU'D HAVE TO RESTATE THE QUESTION. I DIDN'T... [LB77]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: WOULD YOU EXPLAIN TO ME...YOU TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE STATE OF IOWA AND HOW THEY HAD INSTITUTED THIS PROGRAM. TELL ME A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THAT, WOULD YOU? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ALL I...I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC EVIDENCE. THERE'S BEEN NO RESEARCH THAT I'VE SEEN SPECIFICALLY TO IOWA. I JUST MENTIONED THAT THEY ARE ONE OF OUR NEIGHBORING STATES ALONG WITH COLORADO AND WYOMING THAT HAVE DONE THIS. THE STATES THAT I DID MENTION THAT WERE CONDUCTED IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION STUDY WERE ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, CALIFORNIA, NEW MEXICO, OREGON, AND SOUTH CAROLINA. AND THEN THERE IS OTHER MORE RECENT RESEARCH ALSO, BUT I'LL TALK ABOUT THAT ON MY TIME. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. COLLEAGUES, IN 2010, I'VE GOT THE REPORT HERE FROM THE GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE. AND IT'S FACTS ABOUT UNINTENDED PREGNANCY. IN IOWA, 43 PERCENT OF THE PREGNANCIES OR ABOUT 23,000 PEOPLE OR WOMEN THEY WERE UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES. THAT SAME YEAR IN NEBRASKA, WE HAD 43 PERCENT OF ALL PREGNANCIES OR 14,000 WERE UNINTENDED. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

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SENATOR KOLTERMAN: SO AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN RELY ON UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES OR TO...AS FACTS THAT WE'RE JUST GOING TO STOP SPENDING MONEY BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE PREGNANCIES. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR GLOOR, SENATOR NORDQUIST, SENATOR MELLO, SENATOR COOK, SENATOR KOLTERMAN, AND OTHERS. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR GLOOR: GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I GOT ABOUT EIGHT DIFFERENT PIECES OF PAPER WITH NOTES ON IT. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION WE HAVE AT VARIOUS TIMES ON VARIOUS BILLS ABOUT HEALTHCARE AND HEALTHCARE COSTS. AND WE FIND OURSELVES, UNFORTUNATELY, I THINK EASILY PULLED OFF COURSE FROM WHAT SOME OF OUR PRIORITIES I THINK SHOULD BE AS LEGISLATORS. I UNDERSTAND PEOPLE WITH MORAL OBJECTIONS ABOUT A COMPONENT OF THIS. I RAN A CHURCH AFFILIATED INSTITUTION FOR YEARS AND YEARS WHOSE BELIEFS I DIDN'T NECESSARILY SHARE, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND WAS MORALLY CHARGED WITH FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH THOSE. SO, YOU KNOW, I'M TUNED INTO THAT AND UNDERSTAND. I'M GOING TO APPROACH THIS FROM MY CURRENT POSITION AS CHAIRING THE REVENUE COMMITTEE WITH ALL OF YOU WHO COME TO US WITH EXPECTATIONS THAT WE CAN FIGURE OUT WAYS TO DEAL WITH VARIOUS TAX ISSUES. I DON'T HAVE TO CATEGORIZE THEM. YOU HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT THEY ARE AND WHAT YOUR INTERESTS ARE. AND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THEM TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND SOMETIMES EVEN WITH FELLOW SENATORS ABOUT HOW ARE WE GOING PAY FOR THIS, THE RESPONSE USUALLY IS, LOWER THE COST OF GOVERNMENT. WELL, WHAT DO WE MEAN BY LOWERING THE COST OF GOVERNMENT? AND WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU IS THAT REDUCING OUR SALARIES BY 50 PERCENT LOWERS THE COST OF GOVERNMENT BUT AS WE WELL KNOW, ISN'T GOING TO MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS. AND THERE ARE A LOT OF COMPONENTS OF THAT THAT AREN'T GOING TO MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WHEN IT COMES TO LOWERING THE COST OF GOVERNMENT. BUT THE COST OF HEALTHCARE FOR US, NOT THE COST OF HUMAN SERVICES AND VARIOUS PROGRAMS OUT THERE, BUT THE ACTUAL COST OF ACUTE CARE AND LONG-TERM CARE ON OUR BUDGET AND THE COST OF EDUCATION ARE WHERE THE RUBBER HITS THE ROAD. AND WE'RE HAVING THIS DISCUSSION ABOUT REDUCING PREGNANCIES, UNWANTED PREGNANCIES, AND DISMISSING IT AS IF IT WERE JUST THROWING \$2 MILLION OR \$3 MILLION AWAY AND EXPANDING MEDICAID AND IT'S PART OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND NOT UNDERSTANDING AND MAKING THAT DEEPER DIVE TO RECOGNIZE THE FACT THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

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MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN EXPENSES, NOT FOR HEALTHY DELIVERIES, NECESSARILY. CERTAINLY WE HOPE THEY'LL ALL BE HEALTHY DELIVERIES, BUT THEY WON'T. WE'LL END UP WITH WARDS OF THE STATE THAT WE WILL SPEND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON OVER THE COURSE OF THEIR LIFETIMES. THEY'LL BE STATE WARDS--TAX MONEY. IT WILL INCREASE THE COST OF MEDICAID TO US. OR WE CAN MAKE THE SIMPLE DECISION, I'M SORRY, I RECOGNIZE IT'S NOT A SIMPLE DECISION. WE CAN MAKE ONE OF THE MORE INTROSPECTIVE, DEEP-THINKING DECISIONS ABOUT CONTROLLING THE COSTS OF HEALTHCARE THAT WE SPEND, ACUTE CARE SERVICES, LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES BY PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO STOP UNWANTED PREGNANCIES. AND I REMEMBER WHEN EVERY WOMAN MATTERS BEGAN IN THE STATE AND THE ENTHUSIASM AND THE EXCITEMENT AROUND IT WITHIN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY BECAUSE OF THE OPPORTUNITY PHYSICIANS AND NURSES WOULD HAVE TO REACH...TO TAKE PATIENTS AND GET MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENINGS. IT WAS BIG STUFF AND IT WAS SUPPORTED BROADLY, NOT JUST WITHIN THIS BODY BUT ACROSS THE STATE BY A VARIETY OF GROUPS AND ANECDOTAL INFORMATION THAT CAME TO ME FROM PHYSICIANS WHO SAID WE CAUGHT A WOMAN IN EARLY STAGES OF BREAST CANCER. WHAT'S THE COST OF CATCHING A WOMAN IN EARLY STAGES OF BREAST CANCER, NOT JUST IN TERMS OF THE EMOTIONAL TOLL THAT IT TAKES ON THE FAMILY AND THE INDIVIDUAL, BUT THE ACTUAL COST TO THE STATE? MILLIONS AND MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. I'M TELLING YOU, THAT IF YOU EXPECT US TO COME UP WITH SIZABLE TAX CUTS IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA IN THE UPCOMING YEARS, WE AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE STATE HAVE TO LOOK VERY, VERY DEEPLY AT THE COST OF ACUTE AND LONG-TERM CARE. AND THIS IS ONE OF THE SMALL WAYS THAT WE COULD GET A HANDLE TO SOME OF THOSE EXPENSES. THIS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THIS ISN'T A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING BILL. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR GLOOR: THIS IS AND WE'VE HAD THIS DISCUSSION BEFORE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WE'VE HAD THIS DISCUSSION BEFORE. I'M SURE WE'LL HAVE IT IN THE FUTURE. GET THE POLITICS OUT OF THIS. GET THE PARANOIA OVER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OUT OF THIS. LOOK AT IT FOR WHAT IT IS AND THAT IS IT'S A RELATIVELY SIMPLE WAY, A RELATIVELY LOW-COST WAY TO CONTROL MEDICAID EXPENSES. AND THEY'RE BIG AND THEY'RE GROWING. AND THEY'RE GOING TO BE A PROBLEM FOR US INTO THE FUTURE UNLESS WE START CHIPPING AWAY. THIS IS A WAY TO CHIP AWAY. I SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT AND THE UNDERLYING BILL, LB77. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED AND THIS IS

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YOUR SECOND TIME. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. SOMEBODY BROUGHT UP PLANNED PARENTHOOD ON THE FLOOR. I JUST WANT TO BE CLEAR HOW THIS WORKS. YOU ESSENTIALLY GET A CARD, LIKE A MEDICAID CARD. IT'S A FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES CARD. THIS IS HOW IOWA DOES IT. AND YOU GO TO ANY PROVIDER THAT WAS WILLING TO TAKE MEDICAID. AND IN SOUTH OMAHA, MOST OF THE PEOPLE ARE PROBABLY GOING TO GO TO THE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER WHERE THEY GET THEIR INSURANCE OR WHERE THEY GET THEIR CARE, OR THEY GO TO THE NORTH OMAHA FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER. THEY CAN GO TO ANY PROVIDER. THERE'S NO TIES HERE TO ONE. AND FOR THE PEOPLE QUESTIONING THE COST SAVINGS, THERE'S ONE STATE, TEXAS, THAT'S BEEN AN INTERESTING CASE STUDY. GOVERNOR RICK PERRY IN TEXAS SET UP THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM IN 2007. BUT THEY...THEN THEY CAME BACK AND SAID, WELL, WE DON'T WANT PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO GET ANY OF THIS MONEY. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAID, WELL, YOU CAN'T RESTRICT ONE PROVIDER. THEY SAID THAT VIOLATED FEDERAL LAW. SO THEY SAID YOU'RE NO LONGER GETTING THE FEDERAL MONEY FOR THIS. TEXAS SAID, YOU KNOW WHAT? THE COST SAVINGS ARE SO GREAT WITH THIS PROGRAM THAT EVEN IF WE PAY FOR IT 100 PERCENT WITH STATE DOLLARS, IT'S WORTH IT. AND GOVERNOR PERRY KEPT THE PROGRAM GOING IN TEXAS WITH 100 PERCENT STATE DOLLARS BECAUSE OF THE COST SAVINGS BEING SO GREAT. NOW WE'VE HEARD THE TERM MEDICAID EXPANSION THROWN AROUND HERE. AND I WANT TO GET TO THE DEFINITION OF WHAT EXPANSION IS. THERE'S TWO THINGS YOU CAN LOOK AT HERE WITH THIS BILL. FIRST, INCOME ELIGIBILITY DOESN'T CHANGE--185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. THE WOMAN GETS PREGNANT, SHE'S ELIGIBLE NOW. WE WON'T DO ANYTHING TO KEEP HER FROM GETTING PREGNANT, THE SECOND SHE GETS PREGNANT, WE'RE PAYING 100 PERCENT OF THOSE COSTS AND ALL THE COSTS OF THAT LOW-INCOME FAMILY THROUGH SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS GOING FORWARD. SO WE'RE NOT INCREASING ANY KIND OF INCOME ELIGIBILITY HERE. WE'RE JUST PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM GETTING TO THE FULL ELIGIBILITY POINT OF BEING PREGNANT. SECOND THING IS IF YOU TALK IN TERMS OF DOLLARS, THIS IS A MEDICAID CONTRACTION BILL. NO PUN INTENDED WITH CONTRACTIONS. BUT THIS IS A MEDICAID CONTRACTION BILL WHERE WE ARE SAVING THE STATE \$13 MILLION A YEAR GOING FORWARD AND WE'RE SAVING OUR FRIENDS AT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WHO NEED US TO HELP THEM SAVE MONEY, \$14 MILLION A YEAR. IN TERMS OF DOLLARS, WE'RE DOING THE OPPOSITE OF EXPANDING MEDICAID. AND THE RESULTS, THE EVIDENCE IS SO CLEAR. AND ONE MORE POINT TO THE EVIDENCE THAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT AND SENATOR KOLTERMAN MENTIONED THE GUTTMACHER STUDY OF IOWA. GUTTMACHER CAME OUT

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LAST YEAR, 2014, WITH A NEW STUDY. OUR FISCAL NOTE ESTIMATES \$4 OF SAVINGS FOR EVERY DOLLAR THAT THIS PROGRAM INVESTS. THE NEW GUTTMACHER STUDY SHOWS \$7.09 OF SAVINGS FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED. THAT INCLUDES...THEY INCLUDED THE SOCIETAL COSTS, THE SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFIT COST SAVINGS OF PREVENTING UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. THE SAVINGS ARE SO REAL. WE CAN SIT BY AND LET THERE BE MORE UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES, SOME OF WHICH, UNFORTUNATELY, GET TERMINATED AND END IN ABORTION OR THE REST OF THEM GET PAID FOR BY MEDICAID. OR WE CAN TAKE ACTION AND PREVENT AND HELP WOMEN HAVE HEALTHY PREGNANCIES WHEN THEY WANT TO BE PREGNANT... [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ...AND PREVENT GETTING PREGNANT WHEN THEY DON'T WANT TO. SIXTY-TWO PERCENT OF BIRTHS AMONG LOW-INCOME WOMEN ARE UNINTENDED--62 PERCENT OF THOSE BIRTHS ARE UNINTENDED. THIS IS THE ACTION 29 STATES, INCLUDING CONSERVATIVES LIKE RICK PERRY, NIKKI HALEY IN SOUTH CAROLINA, LIKE STATE OF WYOMING, STATES LIKE THAT HAVE MOVED FORWARD WITH THIS. ALABAMA HAS MOVED FORWARD WITH IT AS A WAY TO PREVENT THOSE PREGNANCIES AND MAKE SURE THAT WHEN WOMEN DO GET PREGNANT IN OUR MEDICAID SYSTEM THOSE ARE HEALTHY BIRTHS. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I APOLOGIZE THAT IT'S TAKEN 34 DAYS FOR ME TO STAND UP AND START TO DISCUSS, SO TO SPEAK, A GENERAL PRACTICE THAT PREVIOUS APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRS HAVE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS WHICH IS BASED ON GENERAL PREMISE THAT SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE A PIECE OF LEGISLATION DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TO COME TO THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SAY THAT THE FISCAL NOTE IS WRONG. I, BY ALL MEANS, HAVE BEEN A FRESHMAN MEMBER OR A SECOND-YEAR MEMBER THAT'S HAD A DISAGREEMENT WITH A FISCAL NOTE. BUT SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THE FISCAL NOTE DOESN'T MEAN YOU GET TO COME ON THE FLOOR AND SAY IT'S WRONG AND THAT PEOPLE SHOULD VOTE AGAINST THE BILL BECAUSE YOU, AS AN INDIVIDUAL SENATOR, BELIEVE THAT IT'S WRONG. THE REALITY IS THAT RARELY DO WE SEE, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE RELATED ISSUES, RARELY DO WE SEE THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COME INTO A SIMILAR AGREEMENT ON A LOT OF ISSUES. BECAUSE AT THE END OF

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THE DAY, COLLEAGUES, THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE, FISCAL NOTE IS THE ONLY FISCAL NOTE THAT THIS BODY USES WHEN DETERMINING THE GENERAL FUND IMPACT OF A PIECE OF LEGISLATION. ANYTHING A DEPARTMENT GIVES US DOESN'T REALLY MATTER AT THE END OF THE DAY. IT'S WHAT THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE PROVIDES US. AND SO WHEN I HEAR COLLEAGUES ON THE FLOOR STAND UP AND OPPOSE A BILL SAYING THERE'S NOT...THIS SAVINGS CAN'T BE THERE. THIS IS JUST NOT RIGHT, IT'S NOT TRUE. COLLEAGUES, LOOK. WE CAN HAVE DISAGREEMENTS ON POLICY IN REGARDS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU THINK IT'S A GOOD POLICY TO MAKE OR A BAD POLICY TO MAKE. BUT I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO STAND UP ON THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SAY THE FISCAL OFFICE JUST DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING, THAT THEIR FISCAL NOTE IS JUST COMPLETELY WRONG. IT'S JUST COMPLETELY OFF BASE. AND I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION, BUT THE FACTS AND THE RESEARCH THAT THEY'RE USING IS JUST BOGUS BECAUSE I WOULD HAVE TO DO THAT ON ANY BILL WHETHER OR NOT I AGREE WITH THE BILL OR OPPOSE THE BILL. BECAUSE IT'S MY JOB AS THE APPROPRIATIONS CHAIR TO DEFEND FISCAL NOTES, EVEN WHEN I GET A FISCAL NOTE AND I MAY NOT AGREE WITH IT, AS MEMBERS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HEARD ME SAY THIS EARLIER IN THE WEEK. SO THE REALITY IS LB77, AS YOU SEE THE FISCAL NOTE, HAS A SIGNIFICANT GENERAL FUND SAVINGS. AND ACTUALLY EVERY TIME A BILL LIKE THIS HAS BEEN INTRODUCED IN MY TIME HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, IT HAS CONSISTENTLY ALWAYS HAD A GENERAL FUND SAVINGS. AND SO WHETHER OR NOT YOU DISAGREE WITH THE POLICY OF HAVING THE STATE SIGN A MEDICAID WAIVER, WHICH I THINK SENATOR NORDQUIST MENTIONED, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, I REMIND YOU. THAT'S A SEPARATE FEDERAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION, A SEPARATE BILL DISCUSSING THAT. THIS HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE EARLY 2000s. A VARIETY OF STATES HAVE SIGNED THESE WAIVERS; A VARIETY OF STATES HAVE NOT. THERE IS A GENERAL FUND SAVINGS AS WE'VE SEEN WITH THIS POLICY COMING FORWARD. AND THE RESEARCH IS LAID OUT ON YOUR FISCAL NOTE OF HOW BOTH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE CAME TO A SIMILAR CONCLUSION THAT THERE WILL BE SAVINGS IN MEDICAID BASED OFF OF THE REDUCTION OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES AND THE REDUCTION OF CHILDREN AFTER THEY'RE BORN, NOT ON MEDICAID. I JUST SPOKE WITH THE FISCAL OFFICE TODAY AND ASKED SPECIFICALLY IN CASE SOMEONE WANTED TO KNOW, WHERE DO THEY THINK THESE SAVINGS ARE GOING TO COME FROM, THAT IS WHERE THE SAVINGS COMES FROM, COLLEAGUES. THE COST ASSOCIATED WITH A PREGNANCY AND THE COST ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHILD BECOMING MEDICAID ELIGIBLE ONCE THEY'RE BORN BY NOT HAVING A PREGNANCY, THAT IS WHERE THE COST SAVINGS COME. AND THE COST SAVINGS COME

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FROM AN UNINTENDED PREGNANCY BECAUSE AN INDIVIDUAL CHOOSES TO UTILIZE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES UNDER LB77. HOPEFULLY THAT CLARIFIES SOME OF THE MISCONCEPTIONS AND/OR MAYBE SOME OF THE MISINFORMATION THAT'S BEEN PUT ON THE FLOOR THIS MORNING REGARDING THE ACTUAL COST OF THIS BILL, THE GENERAL FUND... [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR MELLO: ...SAVINGS OF THE BILL, AND ARGUABLY WHAT THE LEGISLATURE USES WHEN WE PASS LEGISLATION, WHEN WE PASS A BUDGET LATER THIS SESSION, IF WE PASS ANY TAX CHANGES OR SPENDING MEASURES, THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE IS THE ITEM THAT WE USE TO CALCULATE THE GENERAL FUND IMPACTS, NOT HUNCHES, NOT OUR PERSONAL BELIEF OR OUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE. IT'S WHAT THE LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE STATES IT. AND IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT FISCAL NOTE, BY ALL MEANS, AS I'VE MET WITH MANY NEW MEMBERS, WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH THE FISCAL OFFICE ABOUT THESE NOTES, HOW THEY CAME TO THOSE CONCLUSIONS, WHAT RESEARCH THEY USED TO DEVELOP THOSE NOTES. AND IF YOU CAN SOMEHOW MAKE A COMPELLING ARGUMENT WITH NEW INFORMATION THAT'S NOT BEEN AVAILABLE TO THEM, THEY WILL LISTEN TO YOU. THEY MAY NOT CHANGE THE FISCAL NOTE, BUT THEY WILL LISTEN TO YOU. AND THEY'LL TAKE THAT INFORMATION IN AND CONSIDER IT. WITH THAT, COLLEAGUES, THE FISCAL NOTE IS WHAT IT IS. THERE'S A SIGNIFICANT GENERAL FUND SAVINGS, AND ARGUABLY THIS IS ONE OF THE... [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE, SENATOR. [LB77]

SENATOR MELLO: ...FEW BILLS THAT WE WILL SEE THAT HAS THIS LARGE OF A GENERAL FUND SAVINGS WHEN IT COMES TO MEDICAID. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THOSE IN THE QUEUE ARE SENATORS COOK, KOLTERMAN, SCHUMACHER, KRIST, MORFELD, AND MURANTE. SENATOR COOK, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I RISE THIS MORNING IN SUPPORT OF AM109 AND THE UNDERLYING BILL, LB77. EARLIER THERE WAS A STATEMENT MADE TO THE EFFECT THAT THIS BILL HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR BEFORE OR HEARD BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE BEFORE. I THINK THAT THAT IS SOMETIMES AN INDICATION THAT IT IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME AND IT IS A GOOD IDEA. RECENTLY HAVING MADE A DECISION TO EMBRACE MY

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CONTEXT, I RECOGNIZE THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE SIMPLY PHILOSOPHICALLY OPPOSED TO WOMEN HAVING ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION. AND THOSE ARE SINCERE BELIEFS THAT COME FROM LOTS OF DIFFERENT PLACES. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT IT IS 2015 AND WOMEN CAN NOW, AND FAMILIES, IN CONCERT WITH THEIR PARTNERS, CAN NOW MAKE CHOICES ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY BECOME PREGNANT. I FIND IT SOMEWHAT IRONIC AS WE HEAR OVER AND OVER AGAIN THE MANTRA OF THE SPECTER OF EXPANDING MEDICAID. IT'S SOMETHING THAT GETS PEOPLE KIND OF EXCITED AROUND HERE. WHAT'S INTERESTING I FIND IS THAT THE NANOSECOND OR THE MOMENT THAT A WOMAN BECOMES PREGNANT BECAUSE SHE DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION, GUESS WHAT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WHO MAY BE LISTENING, SHE IS ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID. SO ONE COULD MAKE THE ARGUMENT THIS MORNING THAT BY NOT VOTING TO SUPPORT AM109 AND LB77, GUESS WHAT, FOLKS? YOU ARE GOING TO VOTE TO EXPAND MEDICAID IN NEBRASKA. THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME AFTER THESE MANY YEARS OF TRYING TO GET THIS ACCOMPLISHED IF THAT IS YOUR IDEA OF THE BILL. THAT IS NOT THE INTENT OF THE BILL. ONCE AGAIN, I WILL NOT SPEAK TO THE FISCAL NOTE. THAT IS NOT MY AREA OF EXPERTISE. WHAT I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH FOR MANY, MANY YEARS, BEGINNING MANY YEARS AGO WHEN I STILL SERVED AS THE GOVERNOR'S DIRECTOR OF URBAN AFFAIRS WITHIN GOVERNOR JOHANN'S ADMINISTRATION, IS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE OF EPIDEMIC, SOME SAY ENDEMIC, ISSUES AS THEY RELATE TO UNPLANNED PREGNANCY OR TEEN PREGNANCY WITHIN THE POOR COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND I'M GOING TO SHARE WITH YOU, BECAUSE MOST OF YOU DO NOT SERVE ON THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE, SOME INFORMATION THAT WAS SHARED WITH MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS AND HOW IT IS TO HAVE ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION AND TO UNDERSTAND HOW AND WHEN TO USE IT AND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO USE CONTRACEPTION CONSISTENTLY. AND ONE OF THOSE OPTIONS, OF COURSE, WITH CONTRACEPTION IS TO BE ABSTINENT. SO IF YOU'LL HOLD ON A SECOND, I'LL GET THAT PIECE OF PAPER. THIS TESTIMONY WAS OFFERED ON BEHALF OF THE OMAHA WOMEN'S FUND. AND I WON'T READ THE ENTIRE THING TO YOU TODAY. BUT I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THIS ORGANIZATION HAS DONE A GREAT DEAL OF RESEARCH AS IT RELATES TO THE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, PARTICULARLY OF YOUNG WOMEN. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR COOK: AND WHAT...PARDON ME? [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

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SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. IN TESTIFYING IN SUPPORT OF LB77, THEY OFFERED THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONY: TO BE CLEAR, SEXUAL LITERACY IS DEFINED AS THE KNOWLEDGE NEEDED TO ADVANCE AND PROTECT ONE'S OWN SEXUAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. THIS IS IMPORTANT AS AN ADOLESCENT OR THOSE THEY'RE DESCRIBING AS AGES 15 TO AGE 24 BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS, APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL HAVE SEX. THIS NUMBER IS LOWER FOR 9TH GRADERS AND HIGHER FOR 12TH GRADERS, BUT THE NUMBERS ARE STABLE. SINCE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEYS HAVE CONSISTENTLY SHOWN SEXUAL LITERACY AND PREGNANCY TO BE AMONG THE... [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB77]

SENATOR COOK: ...TOP ISSUES...THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR KOLTERMAN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SEVERAL THINGS I'D JUST LIKE TO COMMENT ON. I'M NEW AT THIS. I THINK EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT. I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT WE'VE SOME REALLY GOOD DISCUSSIONS IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. AND I APPRECIATE THE POSITION OF EVERYBODY THAT'S IN THERE AND WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK FREELY WITH EACH OTHER. THEY USUALLY KNOW MY POSITION AND I KNOW THEIRS. AND I DO RESPECT THE FACT THAT WHAT THE GOOD SENATOR JUST SAID ABOUT UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES. TO ME, THIS IS REALLY...THIS BILL REALLY DEALS WITH, IN MY OPINION, THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID, FOR ONE. IT ALSO DEALS WITH SOMETHING THAT I FUNDAMENTALLY HAVE BEEN OPPOSED TO FOR YEARS, AND THAT'S THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PAYING FOR CONTRACEPTION. AND I KNOW THAT'S PHILOSOPHICAL, BUT THAT'S THE OPINION THAT I PARTICULARLY HAVE. AND I JUST DON'T SEE WHY WE, AS A CITIZEN SHOULD BE ASKED TO FUND CONTRACEPTION FOR ANYBODY. UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES ARE A FACT. AND WE CAN SIT HERE AND WE CAN QUOTE STUDY AFTER STUDY, AND I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL EVER COME TO A CONCLUSION. AND MORE RECENTLY, SOME OF THESE STATES THAT HAVE EXPANDED AND DONE THIS, THEY DON'T HAVE ENOUGH DATA YET TO TELL US EXACTLY WHERE THEY'RE AT ON THEIR FUNDING OF THIS. BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, WE DO KNOW THAT IF WE GO BACK AND WE LOOK AT THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED IN THE PAST...WE LOOKED AT THE STUDY FOR THE CENTERS FOR MEDICAID AND MEDICARE SERVICES FROM 2004. AND IN THIS STUDY, THEY EXAMINED SIX STATES THAT HAVE ALREADY IMPLEMENTED A MEDICAID EXPANSION OF CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE. AND IN THAT STUDY, IT TALKED ABOUT THEY HAD A NET COST SAVINGS BY REDUCING THE

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NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES AND BIRTHS THAT WOULD RESULT WITHOUT EXPANSION OF CONTRACEPTION. BUT THEY BASED THEIR CLAIMS ON A FORMULA THAT THEY UTILIZE. AND A LOT OF PEOPLE DON'T AVAIL THEMSELVES TO THE NEW SOURCES OF CONTRACEPTION AND MANY PREGNANCIES ARE AVERTED AS A RESULT. I JUST THINK THIS IS A FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG APPROACH FOR OUR STATE AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DO. AND I DON'T...I'M NOT GOING TO SIT HERE AND TALK FOR A LONG TIME ABOUT IT. BUT I'M OPPOSED TO IT. I COULD LIVE WITH THE AMENDMENT THAT WE HAVE UP THERE. IN FACT, I'LL PROBABLY SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT. BUT I JUST DON'T...I WOULD HOPE THAT WE COULD VOTE DOWN THE BILL ITSELF. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. THERE ARE A COUPLE OF ADVANTAGES OF GETTING OLD: ONE, YOU'RE STILL UPRIGHT; AND TWO, YOU HAVE A LITTLE MEMORY AND A LITTLE HISTORICAL CONTEXT. IN THE EARLY 1970s, I HAD THE UNIQUE PRIVILEGE OF BEING ABLE TO LISTEN TO SOME OF THE TOP PEOPLE IN OUR GOVERNMENT FRANKLY AND GENUINELY LAMENT OUR SITUATION. AND THERE WERE TWO TOPICS OF LAMENTING: ONE, WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN IF WE DIDN'T BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND WE CONTINUED TO HAVE BAD BALANCES OF TRADE; AND THE SECOND ONE WAS WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN IF WE STARTED DOWN THE PATH OF WELFARE AND SOCIAL NETS. THERE WAS GREAT CONCERN, AND IT WASN'T THE KIND OF CONCERN THAT WE SEE NOW WITH PEOPLE FOLLOWING DOGMAS AND PRINCIPLES AND RULES AND BOOKS AND ALL THAT, BUT IT WAS GENUINE CIVIC CONCERN. AND THE CONCERN WAS, ONCE WE LIT UP THOSE CIGARS, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE SMOKE BACK IN THEM. WELL, WE DID LIGHT UP THOSE CIGARS. WE NO LONGER CAN REALISTICALLY TALK IN TERMS OF BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGETS OR BALANCES OF TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. WE RUN CONSTANT DEFICITS AND WE'RE IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD THAT WE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET THE SMOKE BACK IN THE CIGAR ON. LIKEWISE WITH THE WORLD OF WELFARE, WE BEGAN AN EXTENSIVE WELFARE PROGRAM. AND OUR WELFARE PROGRAMS EXTENDED BENEFITS, NOT OF GREAT HUMANITARIAN DESIRES BUT BENEFITS TO OLD PEOPLE, WHICH WE SPEND MOST OF OUR MEDICAID DOLLARS ON IN THE STATE, AND ALSO TO YOUNG WOMEN AND TO CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS COULD NOT AFFORD OR CARE TO SUPPORT THEM IN SOME CASES. AND WHEN WE DID THAT, WE TOOK ON TREMENDOUS EXPENSE AS A SOCIETY, TREMENDOUS SHIFT OF RESPONSIBILITY, SOME OF WHICH WE ARE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH TODAY. BUT NEVERTHELESS, THE SMOKE IS OUT OF THE CIGAR. PART OF THE WAY THAT WE HAVE TO RESPONSIBLY DEAL WITH

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THE FINANCIAL SITUATION THIS HAS BROUGHT UPON US IS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CHILDREN THAT ARE BORN, ARE BORN BECAUSE THEY ARE WANTED AND NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE ACCIDENTS. AND IN ORDER TO DO THAT, WE NEED THE PROPER TYPE OF EDUCATION AS TO FINANCES AND BIOLOGIES AND CONTRACEPTION. BECAUSE WHEN THOSE CHILDREN ARE BORN, LOTS OF THEM, LOTS OF THEM ARE ON OUR NICKEL. I THINK NEARLY HALF OF THEM ARE BORN INTO SOME TYPE OF A WELFARE SUBSIDY, WHETHER IT'S WIC PROGRAM OR MEDICAID OR WHATNOT. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SIMPLY PRETEND IT WAS 1970 AND WE STILL HAD A CIGAR THAT WAS UNLIT. THE NEEDS THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SEES, THE NEEDS OF THE OLD POPULATION THAT'S GOING TO JUST LOOM UP IN FRONT OF US AND BITE US BAD, THE REQUEST FOR TAX RELIEF THAT WE SEE ON AN EVER-ENDING...OR NEVER-ENDING LIST OF CREATIVITY OF WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE A TAX BREAK IN REVENUE COMMITTEE, ALL MEANS THERE'S GREAT PRESSURES. A FEW YEARS AGO, I ATTENDED A DEAL BACK AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY ON HOW THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES ARE TRYING TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PROBLEMS OF POPULATION, FEEDING THEIR YOUNG, AND MAINTAINING AND TRYING TO GET SOME SOCIAL ORDER. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: AND THE CONCLUSION THERE WAS THIS: THAT WHAT WORKS IS EDUCATION AND PROPER FINANCIAL AND FAMILY PLANNING EDUCATION WITH YOUNG WOMEN THAT ENABLES THEM TO REALIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS, TO START THINKING IN TERMS OF FINANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY, AND IS A GOOD AND SMART THING. NOW THIS BILL IS NO MAGIC BULLET, BUT IT IS A COUNTERBALANCE TO THE SPENDING THAT WE OTHERWISE WOULD INCUR. AND IT IS SOUND FINANCES, SOUND FOR OUR SOCIETY AND THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR CHILDREN THAT WE NOW, AS A SOCIETY, HAVE ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR, RIGHTFULLY OR WRONG. THE SMOKE CANNOT BE PUT BACK IN THE CIGAR. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR KRIST, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES, AND GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. IN THE TIME THAT I'VE BEEN HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, I'VE SEEN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER OF THIS BILL, AT LEAST THREE OCCASIONS, THIS BEING THE THIRD. I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A POINT OF ORDER IN MY LIFE AND IT'S BEEN CONTROLLED PRIMARILY BY BEING A DEVOUT PRO-LIFE PERSON. I BELIEVE IN LIFE AS DEFINED AT CONCEPTION AND ENDING AT NATURAL DEATH. I PARTICIPATED IN A BILL THAT WAS PASSED, AN HISTORIC BILL THAT WAS PASSED A FEW YEARS AGO,

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DEFINING LIFE STARTING AT 20 WEEKS HERE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. I DID THAT BECAUSE EVEN SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR, JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR, SAID THAT ABORTION IN GENERAL AND THE RULINGS THAT WERE MADE ON THE BENCH WAS AND IS ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH SCIENCE, BECAUSE WHEN WE CAN DEFINE CONCEPTION AS THE BEGINNING OF LIFE, WE THEN CAN DEFINE LIFE ITSELF. THE 20-WEEK LAW THAT WE PASSED SEVERAL YEARS AGO DEFINES A CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AND FUNCTIONS THAT MOST OF SCIENCE WILL DEFINE AS THE BEGINNING OF LIFE. I DO NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH ALL OF THAT CONCEPTUALLY, BUT I KNOW...I AGREE WITH THE SCIENCE, DON'T GET ME WRONG. BUT GOING BACK TO MY BELIEF AND MY CORE, IT IS MYSELF A LITTLE COLLISION COURSE BETWEEN MY FAITH, WHAT I BELIEVE IN, AND THE STATUTE THAT HAD TO BE PASSED. BUT I'M A LAWMAKER AND I HAVE TO STAND UP ON THIS FLOOR AND DEFEND WHAT I BELIEVE IN, WHAT MY CONSTITUENTS BELIEVE IN, WHAT MY CORE BELIEVES IN, AND WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE STATE. THE ISSUE THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT HERE IS INDEED EDUCATION, AS MY COLLEAGUE, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, BRINGS. IT IS INDEED A COST, AND WE CAN ARGUE WHETHER IT'S A COST SAVINGS OR IT'S AN ADDITIONAL EXPENSE. BUT I WANT TO MAKE A COUPLE OF POINTS ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR BILL AND ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN SAID ON THIS FLOOR. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL DEBATES ON THIS FLOOR WHERE PEOPLE WILL STAND UP AND INVENT SCIENCE. THEY WILL TWIST THE FACTS TO MAKE THEIR POINT. THAT, COLLEAGUES, IS WRONG. I'VE NEVER DONE THAT AND I WILL NEVER DO THAT. THE QUICKEST WAY TO KILL SOMETHING IS BY FISCAL NOTE OR DECLARING IN A LOUD VOICE THAT THIS IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL OR CONFUSING THE REAL FACTS WITH THE SCIENCE AND THE FACTS THEMSELVES. I'M REALLY SHOCKED THAT IT TOOK 30-SOME DAYS FOR SENATOR MELLO TO GET UP AND DEFEND THE FISCAL NOTE, BUT THEN I DON'T THINK ANYBODY HAS ATTACKED THE FISCAL NOTES AS FERVENTLY AS THEY HAVE ON THIS BILL. WHEN YOU CAN STAND UP AND SAY THAT EVERY VOTE THAT YOU HAVE TAKEN HAS BEEN CONSISTENT WITH YOUR VALUES AND YOUR BELIEFS AND YOUR CORE, THAT IS CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH, AS I CAN, THEN YOU'RE FREE TO SAY THAT LB77 SENDS MONEY TO SOME PLACES THAT I CANNOT SUPPORT WITH PUBLIC DOLLARS. THAT'S A PRETTY STRONG STATEMENT BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THE SCIENCE, I BELIEVE IN WHAT SENATOR SCHUMACHER SAYS, I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO EDUCATE OUR YOUNG. BUT TO DILUTE MY VALUES AND MY CORE AND WHAT I BELIEVE IN, I WILL NOT DO. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: SOME OF THE MONEY HERE IN LB77, AS WELL SPENT AS IT IS, ARE GOING TO SOME ORGANIZATIONS THAT PUBLICLY HAVE OPPOSED ME IN A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT WAYS, IN WAYS THAT I DO NOT APPRECIATE, BUT

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IT'S THEIR RIGHT TO DO SO. SO FOR NOW, A POINT IN SPACE, A POINT IN TIME, I HAVE TO SAY, LB77, IT WILL NOT BE A YES VOTE FOR ME BECAUSE OF MY VALUES, BECAUSE OF MY CORE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MURANTE. I'M SORRY, SENATOR MORFELD. I'M SORRY. SENATOR MORFELD. [LB77]

SENATOR MORFELD: COLLEAGUES, I RISE IN STRONG SUPPORT OF LB77, AND I WANT TO ADDRESS SOME OF THE CONCERNS THAT WERE BROUGHT UP BY SOME OF THE SENATORS HERE TODAY. ONE OF THEM WAS THAT...ONE OF THE SENATORS STATED THAT THEY DON'T WANT THE STATE OR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FOR CONTRACEPTION. AND TO BE QUITE HONEST WITH YOU, I WISH WE WEREN'T IN THE POSITION WHERE THE STATE DID HAVE TO HELP WITH CONTRACEPTION, EITHER. BUT IN MY DISTRICT, WHICH IS ONE OF THE LOWEST-INCOME DISTRICTS IN THE STATE, I HAVE A LOT OF WORKING FAMILIES AND WORKING MOTHERS WHO OFTEN CANNOT AFFORD CONTRACEPTION BECAUSE THEY ARE SPENDING THEIR MONEY ON TRYING TO FEED THEIR KIDS OR THEMSELVES OR PUT THEM THROUGH SCHOOL OR PROVIDE FOR THEIR FAMILY. AND THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, IS WE SPEND SO MUCH ON MEDICAID BECAUSE HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE OUT OF CONTROL. AND THEY'RE OUT OF CONTROL FOR WORKING FAMILIES WHO CAN'T AFFORD SOME OF THESE CRITICAL SERVICES, WHICH IS WHY THEY END UP IN THE ERS, WHICH IS WHY THEY END UP WITH UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES. AND UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF ABORTION. SO IF WE WANT TO DECREASE ABORTIONS, WHICH I THINK EVERYBODY IN THIS BODY WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF, IS DECREASING ABORTIONS, THEN WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IS INVEST RESOURCES RESPONSIBLY ON THE FRONT END. THAT'S WHAT LB77 DOES. THIS IS ABOUT BEING FORWARD THINKING AND ABOUT PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR WORKING FAMILIES. ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LEVEL IS SOMEBODY WHO IS MAKING--A SINGLE HOUSEHOLD, ANYWAY--SOMEBODY WHO'S MAKING \$21,589.50. NOW, IF IT'S A THREE-PERSON FAMILY, THAT'S \$36,611.50. THAT'S MANY OF THE PEOPLE IN MY DISTRICT WORKING HARD, WORKING HARD BUT NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD FOR SOME BASIC MEDICAL NEEDS, SUCH AS CONTRACEPTION. AND WE NEED TO LOOK OUT FOR NEBRASKANS WHO ARE TRYING TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES, WHO WANT TO BE ABLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE. I URGE ALL OF YOU TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF AM109 AND LB77. IT'S ABOUT BEING FORWARD THINKING, AND IT'S ABOUT INVESTING RESOURCES IN THE SHORT TERM SO THAT WE COME OUT FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE IN THE LONG TERM. THANK YOU. [LB77]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MURANTE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR MURANTE: (RECORDER MALFUNCTION.) [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION HAS BEEN CALLED. DO I SEE FIVE HANDS? I DO. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL DEBATE CEASE? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB77]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 AYES, 0 NAYS TO CEASE DEBATE, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: DEBATE DOES CEASE. SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB77]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I WANT TO MAKE A SPECIFIC POINT ABOUT THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, AM109. AM109 IS A TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO LB77. THE EVERY WOMAN MATTERS PROGRAM DOES NOT CURRENTLY PROVIDE FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES, AS IT IS GEARED TO OLDER WOMEN, AND IT IS MORE DIRECTED TO PREVENTIVE SCREENINGS FOR THINGS LIKE BREAST, COLON, AND CERVICAL CANCER. I UNDERSTAND FROM THE INTRODUCER THE INTENT OF THE BILL WAS NOT TO EXPAND THE SERVICES OFFERED BY EVERY WOMAN MATTERS IN THIS WAY. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT, NO MATTER WHERE YOUR STAND IS ON LB77, IS THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AMENDMENT, BECAUSE IT DOES ONLY APPLY TO THE EVERY WOMAN MATTERS PROGRAM. AND EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO CAME IN OPPOSITION TO LB77 SUPPORTED THE EVERY WOMAN MATTERS PROGRAM. IT'S CRITICAL, AND SO WE DO NEED THIS TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO LB77. MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD REQUEST A CALL OF THE HOUSE. AND THAT CONCLUDES MY REMARKS. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB77]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 30 AYES, 0 NAYS TO GO UNDER CALL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. THOSE UNEXCUSED SENATORS OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS

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UNDER CALL. SENATOR CAMPBELL, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROCEED?  
[LB77]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: WE CAN TAKE A MACHINE VOTE, SIR. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU. SENATOR BURKE HARR, SENATOR KINTNER, SENATOR GROENE, THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR KINTNER, SENATOR GROENE, THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. PLEASE REPORT TO THE CHAMBER. SENATOR CAMPBELL. [LB77]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, I THINK WE CAN GO AHEAD AND PROCEED. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE QUESTION BEFORE YOU IS, SHALL AM109 BE ADOPTED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED THAT WISH TO? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB77]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 32 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. WE WILL RETURN TO DISCUSSION. THE CALL IS RAISED. WE WILL JUST RETURN TO DISCUSSION ON LB77. THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES SENATOR COOK. [LB77]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE CONVERSATION ON LB77. AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, I'M A MEMBER OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE. AND I SUPPORT THE MEASURE, SUPPORTED IT LAST YEAR. LAST YEAR, WE JUST RAN OUT OF TIME TO CONSIDER IT. AND I WANTED TO MENTION, SORT OF A RESPONSE, NOT TO BE ARGUMENTATIVE, BUT WE AS MEMBERS OF THIS BODY EACH BRING WHO WE ARE TO THE BODY. AND CERTAINLY, PEOPLE HAVE PHILOSOPHICAL AND SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS REASONS FOR NOT SUPPORTING THIS BILL PROPOSAL. BUT THIS IS NOT THE ONLY INSTANCE IN WHICH DOLLARS, BE THEY FEDERAL DOLLARS OR STATE DOLLARS, ARE SPENT ON SOMETHING TO WHICH SOME OF US MAY BE OPPOSED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE MONEY THAT WE'RE PUTTING IN, IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, THAT IS NOW GETTING DIVIDED UP AMONG THE STATES WHO HAVE EXPANDED MEDICAID, SOME PEOPLE MAY HAVE TAKEN EXCEPTION TO THAT. FEDERAL DOLLARS ARE INVESTED IN WARS AROUND THE WORLD, AND THERE ARE MANY OF US THAT WOULD BE OPPOSED TO THAT. AND A SLIGHTLY LESS DRAMATIC EXAMPLE WOULD BE NONCOMPETE CONTRACTS THAT MULTIPLY INTO THE MILLIONS THROUGH VARIOUS FEDERAL AGENCIES. SO THIS IS

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CERTAINLY NOT THE INSTANCE. IT MAY BE A HEARTFELT INSTANCE, AND I DO BELIEVE THAT IT IS A SINCERE INSTANCE. IT IS CERTAINLY NOT THE ONLY INSTANCE IN WHICH FEDERAL DOLLARS, WHICH ARE OUR DOLLARS, ARE INVESTED IN A WAY IN WHICH WE WOULD DISAGREE. I WANTED TO CONTINUE TO SHARE SOME OF THE TESTIMONY THAT WAS OFFERED DURING THE HEARING ON LB77. RELATED TO THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG WOMEN ABOUT THEIR BODIES IN GENERAL AND SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION. IT WENT ON TO SAY, SINCE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEYS HAVE CONSISTENTLY SHOWN SEXUAL LITERACY AND PREGNANCY TO BE AMONG THE TOP ISSUES FACING GIRLS IN OUR COMMUNITY, WE--AND WHEN WE SAY "WE," THEY MEAN THE OMAHA WOMEN'S FUND--WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE INVESTED MORE THAN \$200,000 IN SEXUAL LITERACY PROGRAMS OVER THE YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY, THEY RECOGNIZE THAT IS NOT ENOUGH. THEY KNOW THIS BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO HAVE, UNFORTUNATELY, EPIDEMIC RATES OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES, SPECIFICALLY AMONG ADOLESCENTS AGES 15 TO 24. AND FOR MY MANY YEARS OF WORK ON THIS ISSUE, HERE'S WHAT I CAN OFFER YOU: THE REASON WHY THE AGE RANGE IS 15 TO 24, COLLEAGUES, IS BECAUSE THE TRUE RANGE IS 13 AND ABOVE AND 12 AND ABOVE BUT THE STATISTICS, ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL, ONLY DIVIDED INTO THOSE AGE BRACKETS. WE KNOW THIS BECAUSE WHEN TEEN PREGNANCY RATES ARE DECLINING, 86 PERCENT OF WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO INCREASED CONTRACEPTIVE USE, THERE'S A GLARING DISPARITY BETWEEN WHITES AND AFRICAN-AMERICANS, NATIVE AMERICANS, AND HISPANICS. IN FACT, AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN TEEN IN DOUGLAS COUNTY IS FIVE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BECOME PREGNANT THAN HER WHITE COUNTERPART. SHE IS ALSO TEN TIMES MORE LIKELY TO CONTRACT A SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION. I DON'T BRING THESE STATISTICS TO BE...CERTAINLY, NOT TO BE PROUD OF THEM AS AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMAN, BUT I WANT THE BODY TO UNDERSTAND... [LB77]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR COOK: ...THAT THIS MEASURE--THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT--THAT THIS MEASURE IS BROUGHT IN PART TO ADDRESS ISSUES AS THEY FLOW FROM TEEN PREGNANCY, ISSUES RELATED TO CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY, ISSUES RELATED TO VIOLENT AND PROPERTY CRIME THAT WE SEE IN PARTS OF MY DISTRICT, AND ISSUES RELATED TO EDUCATION, HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION. WITH THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD CONCLUDE MY REMARKS. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST PRESIDING

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.)

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SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I JUST WANTED TO SAY A COUPLE THINGS. MY FRIEND SENATOR KOLTERMAN HAS MADE A STATEMENT THIS MORNING THAT UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES ARE A FACT AND THAT NO STUDIES REALLY SHOW ANY PROGRESS OF PROGRAMS THAT WORK AND THAT, OF COURSE, THESE COMMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE THAT WE ALL HAVE WOMEN IN OUR FAMILIES. AND WE DIDN'T GO SO FAR AS SAYING THAT SOME OF OUR BEST FRIENDS ARE WOMEN. BUT ANYWAY, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, SENATOR MORFELD MENTIONED THIS A LITTLE BIT, BUT THE MAXIMUM THAT A FAMILY OF FOUR CAN MAKE UNDER THIS RIGHT NOW IS \$13,596 PER YEAR. AND I HEAR CONSTANT COMPLAINTS ABOUT OUR OWN SALARIES HERE AS LEGISLATORS AND WE ALL KNOW THAT NONE OF US IS REALLY LIVING OFF OF THAT \$12,000 PER YEAR. SO I WOULD JUST LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE...THAT IF YOU ARE A SINGLE NONPREGNANT ADULT WITH NO CHILDREN AND NO DISABILITY, YOU'RE NOT ELIGIBLE, NO MATTER WHAT. SO OUR GOAL IS TO FINALLY EDUCATE WOMEN AFTER THEY HAVE ALREADY HAD A BABY, WHICH SEEMS SO SHORTSIGHTED TO ME. I CAN'T EVEN REALLY WRAP MY BRAIN AROUND THIS. THE DISCUSSION THAT THERE HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN ANY STUDIES, IN 1993, RHODE ISLAND PIONEERED...AND I GOT THIS INFORMATION FROM THE MARCH OF DIMES TESTIMONY, BUT THE...RHODE ISLAND PIONEERED A PLAN TO EXTEND FAMILY PLANNING AND PRIMARY CARE AND COVERAGE OF WOMEN FROM 60 DAYS TO TWO YEARS CONCERNING BIRTH. IT CUT IN HALF THE NUMBER OF WOMEN WHO DELIVERED WITHIN 18 MONTHS OF THEIR FIRST PREGNANCY, AND IT HELPED REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY AMONG MEDICAID INFANTS. THE FIRST THREE YEARS SAVED \$14.3 MILLION IN MEDICAID EXPENSES, AND THAT WAS IN 1993 DOLLARS. RIGHT NOW, NEBRASKA RANKS...RIGHT NOW, NEBRASKA HAS ABOUT 39 PERCENT OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES. AND WE RANKED FIFTY-FIRST IN FAMILY PLANNING AND FORTY-NINTH IN FUNDING ANY KIND OF PLANNING OR FAMILY SUPPORT...FAMILY PLANNING. THE MARCH OF DIMES TESTIFIED THAT PRECONCEPTION AND INTERCONCEPTION HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY PLANNING REDUCED THE RISKS OF BIRTH DEFECTS, OF LOW BIRTHWEIGHT, OF PREMATUREITY, AND INFANT IMMORTALITY. THOSE SEEM LIKE WORTHY GOALS FOR OUR STATE. AND THE IDEA OF REDUCING THE RATE OF UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES AND IMPROVING HEALTHCARE OUTCOMES FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES AND ALSO THEREBY REDUCING THE COST TO NEBRASKA TAXPAYERS IS WORTHY, IMPORTANT, AND CRITICAL TO OUR SOCIETY. AND WITH THAT, I WOULD LIKE TO...I THINK THAT'S ALL I'M GOING SAY. I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO GIVE SOME TIME TO SENATOR NORDQUIST, BUT I DON'T SEE HIM RIGHT HERE, SO. [LB77]

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SENATOR NORDQUIST: I'M RIGHT HERE. [LB77]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: OH, YOU ARE THERE. OKAY. SO I WILL DEFER THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR NORDQUIST, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR NORDQUIST, 1:30. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. IN THAT TIME I JUST TO WANT TO PUT OUT TWO PERCENTAGES FOR YOU: 62 PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO LOW-INCOME WOMEN ARE UNINTENDED, 62 PERCENT; 100 PERCENT, THAT'S...FOR THOSE LOW-INCOME WOMEN, THAT'S HOW MUCH OF THE COST AND HOW MANY OF THOSE BIRTHS WE ARE GOING TO PAY FOR WITH FEDERAL DOLLARS AND WITH STATE TAX DOLLARS OF THOSE 62 PERCENT UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES. IT'S A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY IN OUR MEDICAID PROGRAM. AND WE TALK...WE HEAR A LOT OF PEOPLE AND WE'VE...I'VE HEARD A LOT OF COLLEAGUES SAY, WE'VE GOT TO CONTROL THE COST OF MEDICAID,... [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ...WE'VE GOT TO CONTROL THE COST OF MEDICAID. THIS IS A SUREFIRE, EVIDENCE-BASED, PRACTICED IN 29 STATES, EVIDENCED IN 29 STATES APPROACH, A SUREFIRE APPROACH, TO REDUCING MEDICAID COSTS BY HELPING THE WOMEN THAT WHEN THEY GET PREGNANT WE'RE PAYING FOR IT, HELPING THEM STAY HEALTHY, AND HELPING THEM HAVE A PREGNANCY WHEN THEY WANT TO HAVE A PREGNANCY, NOT AN UNINTENDED PREGNANCY. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE. AND THE COST SAVINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ARE SUBSTANTIAL AND THEY'RE REAL AND THEY'RE DOLLARS THAT WE CAN TAKE AND INVEST IN OTHER AREAS OF OUR STATE, WHETHER IT'S EDUCATION OR TARGETED TAX RELIEF, \$10 MILLION A YEAR, \$10 MILLION THIS BIENNIUM, \$13 MILLION A YEAR EVERY SINGLE YEAR AFTER THAT OF FREED-UP MONEY THAT WE'RE NOT SPENDING IN MEDICAID THAT WE'RE SPENDING...THAT WE CAN SPEND IN TARGETED AREAS TO GROW OUR STATE. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST AND SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. SENATOR KOLTERMAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, PRESIDENT. WE...I JUST WANT TO

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ADDRESS AN ISSUE THAT SENATOR MORFELD BROUGHT. AND I COULDN'T CONCUR MORE THAT THERE'S MANY CHALLENGES WITH THE WORKING POOR. IF YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, AS I AM AS IT PERTAINS TO INSURANCE MATTERS, FROM NOVEMBER 15 TO FEBRUARY 15, THERE'S AN OPEN ENROLLMENT PROCESS THAT TAKES PLACE IN THIS COUNTRY EVERY YEAR. AND IT'S HEARTBREAKING WHEN SOMEBODY COMES INTO YOUR OFFICE AND TELLS YOU THEIR INCOME, BECAUSE IT'S INCOME BASED AND HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE AND ARE YOU MARRIED, THAT'S A HEARTBREAKING EXPERIENCE WHEN YOU HAVE TO TELL SOMEBODY, YOU DON'T QUALIFY. WE'VE MADE IT AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE WITHIN 100 PERCENT TO 400 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LEVEL. FOUR-HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LEVEL IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR IS ABOUT \$94,000. AND THEY GET SOME SUBSIDIES BUT VERY LITTLE SUBSIDIES. BUT I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ON THIS FLOOR THAT IT'S NOT JUST THE WORKING POOR THAT ARE BEING HURT BY THIS AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. I HAVE PEOPLE IN MY OFFICE DURING THOSE OPEN ENROLLMENTS. THEY'LL COME IN AND THEY'LL SAY, WELL, I'VE GOT FIVE KIDS AND WE MAKE \$95,000 TO \$100,000 A YEAR, IS THERE ANY HELP FOR US? AND WE'LL HAVE TO TELL THEM, NO, YOU DON'T QUALIFY FOR ANY FEDERAL SUBSIDIES BUT WE CAN ENROLL YOU IN A HEALTHCARE PLAN. WELL, THE REALITY IS, THE HEALTHCARE PLANS THAT ARE OUT THERE TODAY IN THE NEW AFFORDABLE CARE ACT HAVE A MINIMUM OUT OF POCKET OF \$6,300. SO IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO SAVE MONEY, I'LL GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE OF A FAMILY OF FOUR MAKING \$100,000 A YEAR. THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE IS GOING TO COST THEM SOMEWHERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$1,500 A MONTH, PLUS THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A \$12,000, ALMOST \$13,000 OUT-OF-POCKET MAXIMUM. THEY LOOK AT YOU LIKE, I CAN'T AFFORD THAT. IT'S NOT JUST THE WORKING POOR THAT CAN'T AFFORD HEALTH INSURANCE OR HEALTH CARE COVERAGE ANYMORE, IT'S EVERYBODY. AND SO I JUST WANTED TO CLARIFY THE FACT THAT THIS BILL DOESN'T JUST HURT THE POOR. THIS ALSO HURTS THE MIDDLE-CLASS AND THE WORKING-CLASS FAMILIES ALL ACROSS THIS STATE. AND I DIDN'T WRITE THE BILL. I WISHED I'D HAD SOME INPUT IN IT. OBVIOUSLY, I DIDN'T. BUT WE COULD DO A LOT BETTER TO TAKE CARE OF ALL FAMILIES IN NEBRASKA, AND WE SHOULDN'T JUST BE TALKING ABOUT THE LOW-INCOME FAMILIES. SO WITH THAT, I'LL SIT DOWN AND HEAR THE REST OF THE TESTIMONY. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLTERMAN. SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I JUST WANT TO MAKE A COUPLE OF COMMENTS ABOUT THE...ABOUT THE BILL. THE FIRST IS, IS THAT UNDER OUR CURRENT MEDICAID PLAN, WE DO HAVE A

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SECTION IN THAT PLAN ON FAMILY PLANNING. AND SO WE CERTAINLY DO RECOGNIZE AND HAVE RECOGNIZED FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING IN OUR MEDICAID PROGRAM. IT ISN'T VERY OFTEN...WELL, I PROBABLY SHOULD NOT SAY NEVER, BUT IT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT I'M GOING TO OPEN A FISCAL NOTE AND SEE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEES HOW MUCH SAVINGS WE'RE GOING HAVE IF WE PUT THIS PROGRAM INTO EFFECT. MOST OF THE TIME, WE'RE SEEING A HIGHER FISCAL NOTE. SO I HOPE THAT YOU'LL TAKE SOME TIME TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT THAT FISCAL NOTE SAYS. I ALSO WANT TO INDICATE TO YOU THAT IN THE TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, WE LOOKED AT...APPLESEED BROUGHT FORTH SOME TESTIMONY THAT I THINK IS WORTHY OF LOOKING AT. THE SERVICES THEMSELVES, SPECIFICALLY WITH THEIR FOCUS ON WOMEN'S HEALTH, CAN RESULT IN LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SAVINGS. NATIONALLY, IN 2010, ROUGHLY \$7 WAS SAVED FOR EVERY PUBLIC DOLLAR SPENT ON FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. THAT SAME YEAR, IN NEBRASKA, PUBLICLY FUNDED FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES SAVED THE STATE OVER \$49 MILLION IN COSTS, INCLUDING THOSE RELATED TO MATERNITY AND BIRTH, MISCARRIAGE, AND TESTING FOR SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS. THESE SAVINGS REFLECT SERVICES PROVIDED TO PEOPLE TRADITIONALLY ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAID AND NOT THE ADDITIONAL SAVINGS THAT WE COULD GET UNDER THIS BILL. I THINK IN PAST YEARS' TESTIMONY WHEN WE HAVE TALKED TO SOME OF THE FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS ACROSS THE STATE, AND THESE ARE NOT JUST TALKING TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD, BUT OUR NUMBER OF CLINICS WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE, WHAT THEY HAVE INDICATED IS THAT PEOPLE COME INTO THE CLINIC AND THEY WANT TO TALK ABOUT THEIR FAMILY. AND OFTENTIMES, HUSBANDS AND WIVES COME TO THE CLINICS AND THEY SIT DOWN AND SAY, YOU KNOW, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THREE, FOUR CHILDREN, WHATEVER THEY'RE PLANNING, AND HOW CAN WE LOOK AT THAT IN THE YEARS AHEAD AND WHAT DOES HAVING A CHILD MEAN TO OUR FAMILY, WHAT DOES THE COST MEAN TO OUR FAMILY, AND HOW SHOULD WE PURPOSELY LOOK AT THIS? IT ALSO AFFORDS THEM TIME TO ASK QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS THAT THE WOMAN MAY ENCOUNTER IN A PREGNANCY. AND WE PROVIDE ALL KINDS OF HEALTH SCREENINGS TO HELP THAT FAMILY. FAMILY PLANNING IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF EVERY FAMILY'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. AND IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT THIS BILL PROVIDES FOR US A WAY TO HELP MANY MORE FAMILIES AND WOMEN ACROSS THE STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CAMPBELL. SENATOR KOLOWSKI, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING,

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COLLEAGUES. I STAND IN SUPPORT OF LB77. AND I'D LIKE TO BRING HOPEFULLY A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ANGLE TO THIS DISCUSSION THIS MORNING, BECAUSE MY OWN PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS AND MY OWN REFLECTIONS ARE UPON A COUPLE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR OWN FAMILIES AND PEOPLE THAT YOU'VE KNOWN AND THE TOWNS YOU GREW UP IN AND THE GENERATIONS OF THOSE FAMILIES THAT YOU MIGHT STILL KNOW. I HOPE WE CAN REFLECT BACK ON WHERE WE ARE OURSELVES AND WHAT A DIFFERENCE THERE HAS BEEN IN THE CHANGES IN THE WORLD THAT WE LIVE IN CONCERNING THESE TOPICS WE'RE DISCUSSING THIS MORNING. FOR ME, IN A CAREER IN EDUCATION, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE OVER A 41-YEAR TIME PERIOD NOT JUST A FAMILY GOING THROUGH BUT A COUPLE OF GENERATIONS OF FAMILIES. WITH THAT, HUNDREDS--HUNDREDS--OF FAMILIES I GOT TO KNOW OVER THAT TIME. I GOT TO KNOW THEIR PERSONAL SITUATIONS. I GOT TO KNOW INTIMATE ASPECTS OF THEIR LIVES AND THE UPS AND DOWNS OF WHAT THEY HAD GONE THROUGH THEMSELVES. AND I'M SURE EVERY ONE OF YOU, AS YOU REFLECT ON THAT, YOU CAN THINK OF YOUR OWN FAMILIES OR FAMILIES THAT YOU GREW UP WITH, FAMILIES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOODS, AND THE IMPACT OF WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IN THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE CHANGE IN HEALTH DIRECTION...HEALTHCARE DIRECTIONS IN OUR COUNTRY ARE IMPACTFUL OF ALL THIS. WE HAVE OVER 300 MILLION PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRY. WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE A MAJOR SHIFT IN THIS MAJOR SERVICE THAT WAS PROBABLY UNSUSTAINABLE IN ITS FORMER WAY, AND THAT'S A HUGE, HUGE CHALLENGE. BUT I'D ASK YOU TO THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN FAMILY AND THE FAMILIES OF THOSE YOU'VE KNOWN OVER THE YEARS AND WHERE THOSE COME FROM. I ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK VERY DEEPLY FOR ABOUT SEVEN TO EIGHT YEARS ON A HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN THE MILLARD SCHOOLS THAT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US. THIS TOOK PLACE IN THE MIDDLE '80S WHEN WE HAD RAMPANT SCARES OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES THAT WERE BEING SPREAD BY SEXUAL CONTACT. IN MY OWN MIND, AS I WORKED THROUGH A VERY LARGE SET OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING TOWARD HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM IN A DISTRICT THAT WAS FAIRLY...EXTREMELY IMMATURE AND NEEDED A GREAT UPGRADING BECAUSE OF THE EPIDEMIC OF WHAT WE SAW GOING ON IN OUR COUNTRY AT THAT TIME, THE MAIN EMPHASIS WAS UPON SEX EDUCATION, AS YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE. AND AS OUR DISTRICT AT THAT TIME HAD ALMOST NOTHING IN PLACE, NOTHING IN PLACE FOR THE STUDENTS, WE MOVED THROUGH AND TO A POINT WHERE A VERY LARGE COMMITTEE OF PARENTS FROM OUR COMMUNITY, SOME OF WHOM SAID AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR PROCESS, WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS, WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANY KIND OF PROGRAM IN PLACE. BY THE TIME WE WENT THROUGH THE FACTS, THE REALITY CHECKS, THE HONEST LOOKING AND DISCUSSING OF THE ISSUES, THOSE SAME PARENTS, BY THE TIME WE WERE DONE, SAID,

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IT'S NO LONGER... [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: ...IF WE'LL HAVE THIS PROGRAM, WHEN WILL WE HAVE IT, WE'VE GOT TO HAVE IT. IN MY OWN THOUGHTS, I KNOW I WORKED THROUGH A PROCESS OF FOUR POINTS AS WE EXAMINED THIS ASPECT OF A HEALTH ED PROGRAM, AND THAT WAS MOVING FROM ATTITUDES ABOUT ABSTINENCE; SECURING ACCURATE INFORMATION; HAVING PERSONAL DECISIONMAKING; AND THEN METHODS OF CONTRACEPTION THAT ONE COULD TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES. AND I THINK THOSE ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT PIECES OF WHAT WE PUT TOGETHER THAT OUR TEACHERS HAVE HANDLED IN A MAGNIFICENT WAY OVER THE LAST 25 YEARS. I HOPE YOU REFLECT ON YOUR FAMILIES, REFLECT ON THOSE YOU'VE KNOWN. AND IF WE DON'T DO THIS PARTICULAR BILL, PREPARE FOR A LOT MORE MONEY IN HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, IN EDUCATION,... [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: ...AND IN SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE FUTURE. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLOWSKI. SENATOR MORFELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR MORFELD: COLLEAGUES, I JUST WANT TO MAKE A FEW DIFFERENT NOTES. AND PARTICULARLY, IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR KOLTERMAN, I'M NOT MAKING THE ARGUMENT OR DISPUTING THE FACT THAT THERE ARE MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES THAT ARE STRUGGLING, AS WELL, AND THAT THEY ALSO PAY A LOT FOR HEALTHCARE. HOWEVER, WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE IS ABOUT LOW-INCOME WOMEN IN PARTICULAR WHO CANNOT AFFORD AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY, WHEREAS, A MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILY THAT SENATOR KOLTERMAN WAS DISCUSSING MIGHT VERY WELL BE ABLE TO AND ACTUALLY WOULD BE ABLE TO COVER THE COST OF UNPLANNED PREGNANCY, UNLIKE SOMEBODY WHO IS AT 185 PERCENT OF THE POVERTY LEVEL. AND THAT'S WHAT THIS BILL IS ABOUT IS ENSURING THAT PEOPLE HAVE SOME BASIC MEDICAL NEEDS THAT ARE MET THAT CANNOT COVER THE COSTS OF SOME OF THESE UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES, WHICH THEN, IN TURN, DOES SOMETHING THAT I THINK THAT WE CAN ALL BE IN FAVOR OF, IS REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF ABORTIONS THAT STEM FROM UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES. AND ANOTHER COMMENT THAT WAS MADE WAS, CONTRACEPTION DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK SO, YOU KNOW, MAYBE THAT'S A REASON FOR NOT ADVANCING THIS BILL. WELL, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT,

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CONTRACEPTION WORKS A LOT BETTER THAN THE ALTERNATIVE. AND THIS BILL IS ABOUT ENSURING THAT THERE IS ACCESSIBILITY TO CONTRACEPTION, ANOTHER BASIC MEDICAL NEEDS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE LOW-INCOME AND WORKING NEBRASKANS. THAT'S WHAT THIS BILL IS ABOUT. IT'S NOT ABOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT OR MEDICAID EXPANSION. IT'S JUST SIMPLY ABOUT PROVIDING THESE SERVICES IN A TARGETED WAY TO, IN FACT, SAVE THE STATE MONEY IN THE LONG RUN. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MORFELD. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LB77. AND ALSO, I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT COLLEAGUES KNOW THE FACTS AS YOU'RE MAKING THIS CHOICE. AND SENATOR MORFELD ALREADY ALLUDED TO THIS, BUT I WILL JUST REPEAT IT AGAIN TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS THIS: THIS IS NOT PART OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. ALL RIGHT? THIS PROGRAM WAS CREATED MANY YEARS PRIOR TO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. IT WAS EVALUATED AND CONTINUED UNDER THE REPUBLICAN BUSH ADMINISTRATION. SO IF YOU DON'T AGREE WITH THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT, THAT'S OTHER BILLS WE MAY DEBATE. THAT IS NOT A REASON TO VOTE AGAINST LB77. IT IS NOT PART OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT. ANOTHER FACT I WANT TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION. I WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE FACTS SHEET PASSED OUT BY MY COLLEAGUE, SENATOR RIEPE. AND ACTUALLY, WHEN I SAW IT ON MY DESK THIS MORNING, I THOUGHT MAYBE HE CHANGED HIS MIND, BECAUSE IT'S VERY GOOD FACT SHEET SHOWING HOW THE MONEY IN EVERY WOMAN MATTERS HELPS US WITH THE CANCER SCREENINGS ACROSS THE STATE. AND I'LL QUOTE, ABOUT 778 HEALTHCARE CLINICS, OFFICES, HOSPITALS, MAMMOGRAPHY FACILITIES, RADIOLOGY GROUPS, AND LABS PERFORM SERVICES FOR EVERY WOMAN MATTERS--778 HEALTHCARE CLINICS ACROSS THE STATE, COLLEAGUES. I MEAN, I GET MY HEALTHCARE...WHAT USED TO BE A CREIGHTON CLINIC, IT'S NOW A CHI CLINIC. THEY DO EVERY WOMAN MATTERS. ALL RIGHT? IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS CANCER SCREENING AND CRITICAL CARE FOR WOMEN. AND THIS IS DONE BY SO MANY OF OUR CLINICS AND HEALTHCARE FACILITIES AND HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS THE STATE--778 OF OUR CLINICS ARE DOING THIS AND PROVIDING THIS SERVICE FOR WOMEN. THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT FACT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THAT'S PART OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS BILL IS THAT CARE THAT'S BEING PROVIDED. THE OTHER THING THAT'S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE IS THAT LB77...THE QUESTION OF LB77 IS NOT, SHOULD MEDICAID PROVIDE CONTRACEPTIONS. COLLEAGUES, THAT DECISION WAS MADE LONG AGO. THAT'S NOT THE QUESTION AT HAND IN LB77. I WOULD ALSO MAKE SURE MY COLLEAGUES UNDERSTAND ANOTHER FACT, AND THAT FACT IS THAT, NO, WE

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DID NOT HAVE PRO-LIFE GROUPS COMING TO TESTIFY AGAINST LB77. AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHECK THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT AND SEE WHO CAME IN SUPPORT, INCLUDING GROUPS THAT ARE WORKING ON CANCER AND WHO CAME IN, IN OPPOSITION. WE DID NOT HAVE THE RIGHT-TO-LIFE GROUPS THAT YOU MIGHT EXPECT TO SHOW UP ON A BILL THAT HAS A RIGHT-TO-LIFE COMPONENT SHOW UP ON THIS BILL. AS OTHER PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY NOTED, AGAIN, ONE OF THE KEY WAYS TO PREVENT ABORTIONS IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WOMEN GET HEALTHCARE, AND THAT'S ANOTHER IMPORTANT PIECE HERE. I HAVE A COUPLE QUESTIONS I WANTED TO ASK. AND SO I'D ASK SENATOR HOWARD IF SHE WOULD YIELD. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR HOWARD, YOU'RE YIELDED 1:29. OH, I'M SORRY. WILL YOU YIELD FOR A QUESTION? [LB77]

SENATOR HOWARD: I WILL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: ALL RIGHT, THANK YOU. NOW I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT MEDICAID ALREADY COVERS CONTRACEPTION. I JUST WANT TO ASK SENATOR HOWARD, DO YOU KNOW, DOES MEDICAID ALSO COVER NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING, WHICH IS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF FAMILY PLANNING FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T AGREE WITH ARTIFICIAL CONTRACEPTION? [LB77]

SENATOR HOWARD: YES. MEDICAID COVERS THE OFFICE VISIT IN WHICH THE NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CONVERSATION WOULD OCCUR. [LB77]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: SO, COLLEAGUES,... [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU. EVEN IF YOU ARE...HAVE CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT OTHER CONTRACEPTION, IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THIS BILL, LB77, WOULD ALSO PROVIDE OFFICE VISITS FOR PEOPLE, FOR CATHOLIC WOMEN, OR WHOEVER BELIEVES IN NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING TO MEET WITH THEIR DOCTORS AND TALK ABOUT THAT. I HAVE ONE OTHER QUICK QUESTION, IF WE HAVE TIME, FOR SENATOR COOK. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR COOK, WILL YOU YIELD? THIRTY SECONDS. [LB77]

SENATOR COOK: YES, MR. PRESIDENT, I'LL YIELD. [LB77]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. SO WE'VE HEARD THAT MEDICAID COVERS CONTRACEPTION. AND I BELIEVE WE'VE CHECKED AND MEDICAID COVERS VIAGRA. AND I WONDERED IF YOU WOULD EXPLAIN WHAT

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YOU SEE AS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE TWO PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.  
[LB77]

SENATOR COOK: WELL, MOST IMMEDIATELY, I SEE THE SIMILARITY. THEY ARE EACH AVAILABLE BY PRESCRIPTION UNLESS YOU'RE USING A CONSULT WITH A NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING PHYSICIAN OR CARE GIVER. THEY ARE EACH USED AS A MEANS TO FACILITATE SEXUAL CONTACT BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK, SENATOR CRAWFORD, AND SENATOR HOWARD. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND GOOD MORNING AGAIN, COLLEAGUES. MANY OF MY CONSERVATIVE COLLEAGUES IN THIS BODY HAVE AN APOLECTIC FIT THAT I'M SUPPORTING THIS BILL. AND I WOULD RESPOND TO THEM BY SAYING THERE'S TWO KINDS OF CONSERVATIVES. THERE'S A PHILOSOPHICAL CONSERVATIVE AND THERE'S A PRAGMATIC FISCAL CONSERVATIVE. AND I WOULD CONTEND THAT MY FRIENDS THAT WANT TO GET THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF HEALTHCARE, THAT'S THE ENTIRE ANSWER, ARE BAYING AT THE MOON. IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. IT'S JUST NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. HEALTHCARE IN THIS COUNTRY IS 17 OR 18 PERCENT OF OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, A HUGE SEGMENT OF OUR ECONOMY. AND SECONDLY, FEDERAL/STATE GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTES WELL OVER 60 PERCENT OF THAT MONEY SPENT. AND WHEN IT COMES TO LONG-TERM CARE, IT'S EVEN MORE. SO IF YOU ARE THINKING YOU'RE GOING GET THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF HEALTHCARE, IT AIN'T GOING TO HAPPEN. OKAY, HOW DO WE FIX HEALTHCARE? AND I THINK...I CONTEND THE WAY WE DO THAT IS THROUGH REDUCING FRAUD, TRIMMING COSTS, AND CREATING INCENTIVES. THAT'S THE WAY THAT WE'RE GOING TO TAME THIS HEALTHCARE BEAST. AND THIS BILL, LB77, DOES THAT. IT DOESN'T VIOLATE ANY STRONG BELIEFS THAT PEOPLE MAY HAVE. IT'S SIMPLY GOOD GOVERNMENT AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE FOR IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY, GOOD MORNING. AND I'M JUST LITERALLY TRYING TO PUT THIS ALL TOGETHER AND UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS ALL MEANS. AND I WAS WONDERING IF SENATOR NORDQUIST WOULD HAVE TIME TO TAKE A QUESTION. [LB77]

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SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR NORDQUIST, WILL YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION FROM SENATOR SCHILZ? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YES, ABSOLUTELY. [LB77]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. AND, YOU KNOW, I HEAR...I'VE SEEN THE FISCAL NOTE. I'VE LISTENED INTENTLY. AND I HAD TO BE OFF THE FLOOR AND I APOLOGIZE. CAN YOU...AND I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT WHERE THIS MONEY IS GOING TO GO AND WHO IS GOING TO BENEFIT FROM THIS MONEY BEYOND THE PEOPLE THAT WOULD BE COVERED MOVING FORWARD. CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME IDEA AS TO HOW THE PROCESS WORKS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING? BECAUSE I'M...I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND IT AS WELL AS I SHOULD... [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: RIGHT. RIGHT. [LB77]

SENATOR SCHILZ ...AND NOT WELL ENOUGH TO MAKE A DECISION, SO IF YOU COULD RUN THROUGH THIS. AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE REST OF MY TIME. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: RIGHT. WELL, THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. WELL, IT STARTS WITH...MUCH LIKE A MEDICAID-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL NOW WOULD GO INTO EITHER THROUGH ACCESSNEBRASKA ON-LINE OR THROUGH A DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE OR AT A MEDICAL PROVIDER THAT HAS INDIVIDUALS WHO HELP INDIVIDUALS ENROLL IN MEDICAID BENEFITS OR OTHER HEALTH BENEFITS. THEY WOULD APPLY FOR A CARD THAT WOULD BE A FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES CARD THAT WOULD COVER THE RANGE OF SERVICES THAT ARE AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STATE PLAN AMENDMENT AND AUTHORIZED WITH ANY LIMITATIONS THAT WE WERE TO PUT IN STATUTE. SO THEN THEY, MUCH LIKE AN INSURANCE CARD, CAN GO CHOOSE THE PROVIDER OF THEIR CHOICE. AND AS THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SENATOR CRAWFORD AND SENATOR HOWARD POINTED OUT, YOU KNOW, FOR SOME WOMEN, THAT MAY BE GOING TO SIT DOWN WITH A FAMILY PHYSICIAN OR THEIR OB/G OR WHOEVER THEY CHOOSE TO TALK ABOUT NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING, TO TALK ABOUT WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THEM AND THEIR FAMILY. IT COULD BE A MOTHER WHO RECENTLY HAD A CHILD WHO WANTS TO SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT WHAT'S THE APPROPRIATE PREGNANCY SPACING, HOW MUCH TIME FOR...TO HAVE A HEALTHY...ENSURE MY SECOND PREGNANCY IS HEALTHY, HOW MUCH TIME DO I NEED TO HAVE IN-BETWEEN PREGNANCIES. BUT THEY CAN GO TO THE PROVIDER OF THEIR CHOICE. AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOESN'T ALLOW US TO LIMIT QUALIFIED PROVIDERS, SO THEY GO TO ANYONE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR THESE AND THAT'S A WIDE RANGE OF

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CLINICS AROUND THE STATE. I CERTAINLY...AND I THINK IN SOUTH OMAHA, ONE OF OUR CHIEF PROVIDERS IS THE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER I BELIEVE IN NORTH OMAHA, IN LINCOLN, IN NORFOLK AND COLUMBUS, GRAND ISLAND, SCOTTSBLUFF. THOSE PLACES THAT HAVE FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS, THOSE WILL BE VERY POPULAR PLACES FOR WOMEN TO GO AND GET THE SERVICES THAT THEY NEED TO PLAN AND HAVE HEALTHY PREGNANCIES WHEN THEY WANT TO. AND THAT IS WHAT SAVES US MONEY IN THE LONG RUN, BOTH THE...YOU KNOW, HAVING...PREVENTING UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES BUT ALSO THE HEALTH OF THE PREGNANCY FOR THOSE WOMEN THAT WANT TO PLAN AND TAKE THE PROACTIVE STEPS TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE IN GOOD HEALTH WHEN THEY DO GET PREGNANT, NOT WE WAIT UNTIL WE GET PREGNANT AND THEN THE STATE STARTS PICKING UP THE COST THERE OR WHATEVER, YOU KNOW, THAT SITUATION IS. WE ARE INVESTING IN PREVENTION AND MAKING SURE THAT THOSE WOMEN ARE ABLE TO TAKE THE STEPS THAT THEY NEED. I KNOW, AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, I KNOW THERE HAS BEEN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT A PARTICULAR PROVIDER. AND REST ASSURED, NOTHING...THERE'S NO COVERAGE AT ALL... [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: ...FOR ANY ABORTION-RELATED SERVICES UNDER THIS PROPOSAL. AND ACTUALLY, I BELIEVE SENATOR KOLTERMAN HAS AN AMENDMENT THAT I'M WILLING TO TAKE A PORTION OF THAT AMENDMENT WHICH SAYS THAT SPECIFICALLY, THAT WE WOULD ENSURE THAT THAT DOES NOT TAKE PLACE. AND THAT IS...FEDERAL HYDE AMENDMENT COVERS THAT ALREADY, WHERE NO FEDERAL DOLLARS CAN BE USED FOR THOSE PURPOSES. SO IT'S VERY RESTRICTIVE IN THAT NATURE, SO THAT ISSUE IS COMPLETELY OFF THE TABLE. BUT THIS IS, AGAIN, ABOUT GIVING WOMEN WHAT THEY NEED TO GO AND CHOOSE THE PROVIDER OF THEIR CHOICE. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST AND SENATOR SCHILZ. AND, SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE NEXT. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WAS JUST GOING TO RUN THROUGH THE LIST OF THE STATES THAT HAVE TAKEN UP THIS OPTION. ALABAMA COVERS TO 141 PERCENT. AND AGAIN, THE LIMITATION IS YOU CAN ONLY COVER UP TO THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL OF WHAT YOU COVER PREGNANT WOMEN, BECAUSE THAT'S OBVIOUSLY WHERE THE PREVENTION IS, BY PREVENTING THOSE UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES FOR THAT POPULATION. AND BEFORE, I GUESS, BEFORE I GO INTO THE STATES, LET ME REAL QUICK READ: 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL IN

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NEBRASKA IS \$21,000 FOR A FAMILY OF ONE, \$29,000 FOR A FAMILY OF TWO, AND \$36,000 FOR A FAMILY OF THREE. CALIFORNIA COVERS TO 200 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL; CONNECTICUT, 263; FLORIDA COVERS; GEORGIA COVERS TO 200; INDIANA TO 146. OUR NEIGHBORING STATE OF IOWA COVERS PREGNANT WOMEN AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES TO 300 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL. LOUISIANA COVERS TO 138 PERCENT; MARYLAND TO 200; MICHIGAN TO 185; MINNESOTA TO 200 PERCENT; MISSISSIPPI TO 194 PERCENT; MISSOURI TO 201 PERCENT; MONTANA TO 211 PERCENT; NEW HAMPSHIRE TO 201 PERCENT; NEW MEXICO TO 255 PERCENT; NEW YORK TO 223 PERCENT; NORTH CAROLINA TO 200 PERCENT; OHIO TO 205 PERCENT; OKLAHOMA TO 138 PERCENT; OREGON TO 250 PERCENT; PENNSYLVANIA TO 185 PERCENT; RHODE ISLAND...CONNECTICUT COVERS TO 100...OR, SORRY, SOUTH CAROLINA COVERS TO 199 PERCENT. TEXAS COVERS WITH A STATE-ONLY FUNDED PLAN. VIRGINIA COVERS TO 105 PERCENT. WASHINGTON COVERS TO 200 PERCENT; WISCONSIN TO 306 PERCENT. WYOMING COVERS AS WELL. AND AS I MENTIONED, THE TEXAS CASE IS VERY INTERESTING BECAUSE THEY SHOWED THE COST SAVINGS WERE SO SUBSTANTIAL IN TEXAS THAT THEY SAID, LOOK, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO SET THESE RULES, WE DON'T NECESSARILY LIKE ALL THE RULES, SO WE'RE GOING TO LET THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT KEEP THEIR MONEY, WE'RE GOING FUND IT SOLELY WITH STATE DOLLARS, BECAUSE THE INVESTMENT OF 100 PERCENT STATE DOLLARS STILL SAVES US MONEY IN THE LONG RUN. THAT'S HOW REAL THE SAVINGS WERE IN THE STATE OF TEXAS THAT GOVERNOR PERRY SAID, YES, WE'RE GOING KEEP PROVIDING THESE SERVICES EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T LIKE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RULES. WE'VE SEEN RECENTLY...AND I KIND OF PUT THIS PACKAGE OF PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES TOGETHER AFTER BEING AT NCSL THIS SUMMER. AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA UNDER REPUBLICAN NIKKI HALEY PUT THIS PACKAGE FORWARD AS A WAY TO SAY, LOOK, I DON'T SUPPORT EXPANDING MEDICAID, IS WHAT SHE SAID, BUT I DO SUPPORT MAKING SURE THAT WE ARE INVESTING IN PREVENTIVE SERVICES THAT PREVENT COSTS IN THE LONG RUN. AND THIS IS WHAT GOVERNOR HALEY IN SOUTH CAROLINA PUT FORWARD CALLED THE HEALTHY CHECKUPS (SIC) PACKAGE. AND IT'S VERY SIMILAR TO WHAT WE'RE PROPOSING TO DO HERE, THAT THIS IS THE WAY TO REACH LOW-INCOME, UNINSURED INDIVIDUALS AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY GET THE CHECKUPS THEY NEED TO PREVENT COSTS IN THE LONG RUN BOTH TO THE STATE AND TO OUR ENTIRE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. SENATOR CRAIGHEAD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

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SENATOR CRAIGHEAD: THANK YOU. AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. AS WE'RE SITTING HERE DISCUSSING UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES AND BIRTH CONTROL, WE'RE...AND WE ARE FORGETTING A VERY, VERY IMPORTANT THIRD OPTION, AND THAT THIRD OPTION IS ADOPTION. THIS HASN'T COME UP, AND THIS IS AN ANSWER TO A LOT OF THESE PROBLEMS. I'LL GIVE YOU TWO EXAMPLES. ONE IS OF A COUPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BECOME PARENTS FOR YEARS AND TWO WEEKS AGO THEY DROVE TO NORTH CAROLINA AND ADOPTED A BEAUTIFUL BABY BOY. ANOTHER ONE IS A SITUATION OF A BABY WHOSE 15-YEAR-OLD BIRTH MOTHER WAS LOVING ENOUGH AND SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW SHE COULD NOT RAISE THIS CHILD. SHE GAVE THIS CHILD UP FOR ADOPTION. SO WE NOW HAVE TWO PEOPLE NOT ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AT THIS POINT. THESE ARE GREAT SITUATIONS. AND WHILE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SEX EDUCATION AND UNPLANNED PREGNANCY, WE REALLY NEED TO BE TALKING ABOUT ADOPTION AS A THIRD OPTION, BECAUSE UNPLANNED PREGNANCY DOES HAPPEN. ADOPTION IS A WIN-WIN FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED. IT GETS PEOPLE OFF OF WELFARE. IT GIVES KIDS A GREAT CHANCE. IT GIVES PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE PARENTS. SO AS WE'RE MAKING OUR DECISIONS THIS MORNING, I WOULD STRONGLY URGE YOU TO STICK THAT IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND AND CONSIDER THAT. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAIGHEAD. SENATOR HOWARD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR HOWARD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LB77 ON BEHALF OF THE FEW BUT MIGHTY YOUNG WOMEN OF CHILDBEARING AGE HERE IN THIS BODY. I SPENT MY MORNING...I KNOW. NO, SENATOR WILLIAMS IS GIVING ME A FACE. I KNOW. WE'RE STRONG BUT MIGHTY AND THERE ARE NOT VERY MANY OF US. I SPENT MY MORNING, AND I APOLOGIZE TO THE BODY THAT I WASN'T HERE WHEN WE CHECKED IN, REALLY DIGGING INTO SOME MEATY ISSUES AROUND CHILD WELFARE. AND WE ARE ONE OF THE HIGHEST STATES FOR REMOVAL OF CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY. WE REMOVE MORE CHILDREN FROM THEIR HOMES THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER STATE. TO ME, THAT'S HORRIFYING AND TERRIFYING. AND MY FIRST THOUGHT IS, THE REASON MUST BE THERE IS SOME TYPE OF ABUSE. RIGHT? BUT 80 PERCENT OF OUR CASES ARE BECAUSE OF NEGLECT, NEGLECT EXACERBATED BY POVERTY. WHEN WOMEN HAVE CHILDREN IN AN UNPLANNED WAY, THAT THEY'RE NOT EMOTIONALLY OR FINANCIALLY READY FOR, THEY OFTEN ARE NOT THE PARENTS THAT THEY WANT TO BE. I HAVE A DREAM OF BEING THE PARENT THAT I WANT TO BE, AND THAT MEANT THAT I DIDN'T HAVE A BABY WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE. I WANT OTHER WOMEN IN THE STATE TO ALSO BE ABLE TO LIVE THAT DREAM, TO DECIDE IF AND WHEN THEY WANT TO HAVE A CHILD. THIS BILL ISN'T ABOUT THE SERVICES THAT WE

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ALREADY PROVIDE. THIS IS ABOUT A SUBSECTION OF WOMEN BELOW 185 PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, OF WHICH SEVERAL YEARS I WAS ONE OF THEM, THAT WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR REGULAR PAP SMEARS, WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR STD CHECKS. AND TWO YEARS AGO, MY PRIORITY BILL WAS AROUND CHLAMYDIA AND GONORRHEA PREVENTION, BOTH OF WHICH, IF LEFT UNTREATED, CAUSE INFERTILITY. THEY CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS IN BABIES WHEN THEY'RE BORN. THIS...LEAVING ASIDE ALL OF THE CONTROVERSIAL PIECES OF THIS BILL, AND I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE SOME OF THEM, BUT I THINK ALL OF US AGREE THAT CANCER SERVICES, CANCER PREVENTION SERVICES ARE WONDERFUL. I THINK ALL OF US AGREE THAT WE DON'T WANT TO SEE MORE CHILDREN REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES BECAUSE THEY WERE BORN TO MOTHERS WHO COULDN'T AFFORD TO HAVE THEM, WHO WEREN'T EMOTIONALLY READY TO LOVE THEM THE WAY THAT THEY DESERVE TO BE LOVED. ONE HUNDRED EIGHT-FIVE PERCENT OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL, THAT'S ALL THAT THIS BILL DOES, AND IT HELPS US IN SO MANY OTHER AREAS OF STATE GOVERNMENT. I SUPPORT LB77 FOR THOSE REASONS, PARTIALLY BECAUSE I THINK OF OUR STATE, BUT ALSO PARTIALLY BECAUSE I THINK OF ME. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HOWARD. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. ONE LAST POINT ON THE COST SAVINGS I THINK IS IMPORTANT TO POINT OUT, AS SENATOR CRAWFORD MENTIONED, I BELIEVE I MENTIONED ALREADY, THAT THIS PROGRAM WAS STARTED WITH WHAT'S CALLED THE 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVERS IN THE 1990s WHICH STATES HAVE TO GO THROUGH A FAIRLY CUMBERSOME PROCESS AND APPLY TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR WHAT'S CALLED A WAIVER, A DEMONSTRATION WAIVER TO PROVE SOME NEW ASPECT OF MEDICAID OR PART OF MEDICAID AS BEING A GOOD PROGRAM. IT'S A WAY TO TEST NEW THINGS. AND WE'VE DONE SOME AS A STATE, OURSELVES. MANY OTHER STATES HAVE. AND THIS WAS A DEMONSTRATION WAIVER UP UNTIL 2010. STATES HAD TO APPLY FOR IT IN 20-SOME...I THINK IT WAS 25 STATES HAD DONE IT THROUGH THIS WAIVER PROCESS. ONE OF THE KEY ASPECTS OF THE WAIVER IS THAT YOU HAVE TO PROVE...BEFORE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WILL APPROVE IT, YOU HAVE TO PROVE THAT IT'S AT LEAST COST NEUTRAL. SO FOR ANYONE WHO SAYS THAT THIS, YOU KNOW, WILL ADD COST TO MEDICAID, 25 OTHER STATES HAVE APPLIED TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND SAID, THIS IS GOING TO BE AT LEAST COST NEUTRAL. THE FEDS APPROVED IT. AND MANY OF THOSE STATES HAVE BEEN THROUGH MULTIPLE ROUNDS OF REAPPROVAL OF THOSE WAIVERS. THEY'RE A THREE-YEAR DEMONSTRATION WAIVER. THOSE STATES HAVE BEEN THROUGH MULTIPLE ROUNDS OF REAPPROVALS WHERE

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THE STATES GO BACK AND SAY, YEAH, THIS WAS AT LEAST COST NEUTRAL, MANY OF THEM MUCH, MUCH MORE THAN COST NEUTRAL, PLEASE REAPPROVE US. AND THE FEDS LOOK AT IT UNDER THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION, AND THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION. THE FEDS GO BACK AND SAY, YES, YOU DID MEET THE COST-NEUTRALITY COMPONENTS, AT LEAST, AND YOU'RE GOING TO...WE WILL REAPPROVE YOU. SO THAT'S WHY STATES LIKE SOUTH CAROLINA HAVE BEEN...STARTED WITH THE INITIAL PROGRAM IN 1994, NEW MEXICO IN '98, ARKANSAS IN '97, AND THEY SHOWED...SOUTH CAROLINA ON AN ANNUAL BASIS SHOWED AROUND 3,000 TO 4,000 BIRTHS AVERTED IN THE SAME POPULATION THAT, HAD THOSE BIRTHS BEEN CARRIED FORWARD, WOULD HAVE BEEN PAID FOR 100 PERCENT WITH STATE AND FEDERAL TAX DOLLARS. THAT'S WHERE...THAT'S WHY THOSE STATES...SOUTH CAROLINA HAS SHOWED BETWEEN \$19 (MILLION) AND \$24 MILLION A YEAR OF GENERAL FUNDS SAVINGS, OF REAL SAVINGS TO THE STATE. AND AT A TIME WHEN OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS RUNNING DEFICITS THE WAY THEY ARE, IT'S TIME FOR US TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND HELP THEM SAVE WITH THIS BILL \$14 MILLION A YEAR LESS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO SEND TO NEBRASKA WITH THIS PROPOSAL. I THINK IT'S TIME TO MOVE FORWARD WITH IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. MR. CLERK. [LB77]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR BOLZ WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE BILL. (FA16, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 647.) [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR FLOOR AMENDMENT. [LB77]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I THINK WE CAN COME TO CONSENSUS AROUND THE IDEA THAT BABIES BORN HEALTHY IN NEBRASKA ARE A GOOD THING, THAT HEALTHY MOMS AND HEALTHY BABIES ARE AN IDEAL THAT WE SHOULD STRIVE FOR IN THIS STATE, THAT WE SHOULD, TO THE DEGREE THAT WE CAN, ENDEAVOR TO PROVIDE THE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES TO WOMEN THAT THEY NEED TO MAKE GOOD CHOICES AND TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES IN PREPARATION FOR PREGNANCY, THROUGHOUT PREGNANCY, AND AFTER PREGNANCY. IT ALSO SEEMS TO ME THAT WRAPPED UP INTO THIS DIALOGUE AND IN THIS DISCUSSION IS A MORAL AND ETHICAL ISSUE. AND REGARDLESS OF WHERE YOU STAND ON THAT PARTICULAR ETHICAL ISSUE RELATED TO PRO-LIFE AND PRO-CHOICE PERSPECTIVES, I THINK WE CAN ALL RESPECT THAT THAT IS A PART OF THIS DEBATE AT THIS POINT IN TIME. SO MY AMENDMENT REMOVES A PIECE OF THAT DEBATE FROM THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION BY ADDING ON PAGE 4, LINE

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14, AFTER THE PERIOD, THE STATEMENT, "NO STATE FUNDS SHALL BE UTILIZED TO PAY FOR ELECTIVE ABORTION SERVICES OR TO PROMOTE ELECTIVE ABORTION SERVICES." SO I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON THIS AMENDMENT IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THAT NO FUNDS SHALL BE USED FOR THOSE SERVICES OR FOR THE PROMOTION OF THOSE SERVICES SO THAT WE CAN FOCUS ON THE HEALTH-RELATED COMPONENTS OF THIS PIECE OF IMPORTANT LEGISLATION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I PUSHED MY BUTTON BEFORE SENATOR BOLZ INTRODUCED HER AMENDMENT. I SUPPORT SENATOR BOLZ'S AMENDMENT. IT DOES GO A LONG WAY TO REMOVING THIS RED HERRING IN THE ROOM THAT THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ABORTION. IF ANYTHING, IT'S AN ANTIABORTION PROPOSAL BECAUSE IT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED OR AT LEAST THE OCCURRENCE OF MANY, MANY ABORTIONS. AND FAMILY PLANNING IS A FAR SUPERIOR METHOD OF DEALING WITH UNWANTED PREGNANCIES THAN HAVING AN ABORTION. BUT LET'S THINK ABOUT THIS. THIS IS A FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE ITEM THAT EMANATES WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM THE CONSERVATIVE AND, INDEED, REPUBLICAN ELEMENTS OF THE 1990s WHEN THIS STARTED. THIS DEALS WITH THE REALITY THAT WHEN A CHILD IS BORN INTO A SITUATION THAT IS NOT FINANCIALLY OR EMOTIONALLY ABLE TO DEAL WITH IT, THE STATE HAS TO PICK UP THE DIFFERENCE. THAT'S ALL THE WELFARE PROGRAMS, FROM THE PRENATAL CARE ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE DELIVERY, TO THE WIC PROGRAMS, TO ALL OF A SUDDEN SOMEBODY KNOWING HOW TO WORK THE SYSTEM AND THEN HAVING A SECOND ONE. THIS ADDRESSES THE PROBLEM WHERE IT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED BY GIVING THE ABILITY OF SOMEBODY TO DECIDE AND TO KNOW HOW TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO ENGAGE IN THE BEHAVIOR LEADING TO PARENTHOOD. AND BECAUSE WE ARE ON THE HOOK FOR THE CARE, PRENATAL, NOW WE'RE TALKING PREEDUCATION TO...BEFORE SCHOOL, BECAUSE OF KIDS GETTING THERE AREN'T SCHOOLED ENOUGH, THE CHILD CARE EXPENSES, WHEN WE HOPEFULLY...AND WE CAN REEDUCATE SOMEBODY IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM WHILE SOMEBODY TAKES CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN. WE, BY NOT FOCUSING RESOURCES AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, REINSTITUTE THE CYCLE OF POVERTY AND THE CYCLE OF IGNORANCE OVER AND OVER AGAIN AND COMPEL A WHOLE GENERATION UPON GENERATION OF PEOPLE TO LIVE IN THAT CYCLE. THIS IS A STRATEGIC WAY NOT ONLY TO BREAK THE CYCLE, TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO MAKE DECISIONS WHICH ARE GOOD FOR THEIR LIVES AND GOOD FOR THEIR FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES DOWN THE ROAD, AND IT IS A WAY THAT WE ARE

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ABLE TO SAVE TAX MONEY BECAUSE WE PICK UP THE TAB. THIS IS A FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE ITEM. AND I COMMEND SENATOR BOLZ FOR SAYING OVER AND OVER IN VERY CLEAR LANGUAGE HERE THAT THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ABORTION. A PENNY WON'T BE SPENT ON ABORTIONS OR FACILITATING ABORTIONS. THIS IS ABOUT EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH KNOWLEDGE AND WITH TECHNOLOGY TO CONTROL THEIR LIVES AND TO STAY OFF THE PUBLIC TILL, NOT GETTING LOCKED INTO THAT MESS AND PUTTING THEM IN A POSITION WHERE THEIR CHILDREN GET LOCKED INTO THAT MESS. LET'S BE STRATEGIC FOR A CHANGE. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO A BUDGET, TO OUR TAXPAYERS, TO A BUNCH OF OLD BABY BOOMERS WHO ARE GOING TO START HITTING THE TILL IN JUST A LITTLE WHILE. WE'VE GOT A RESPONSIBILITY TO ROADS; WE'VE GOT A RESPONSIBILITY TO EDUCATION; WE'VE GOT A RESPONSIBILITY HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE. AND WE HAVE GOT TO BALANCE THOSE. THIS IS A... [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: ...WAY THAT WE CAN BEGIN TO AT LEAST CONSERVE SOME OF OUR RESOURCES FROM EXPENDITURES IN SITUATIONS WHERE THE PROSPECTIVE PARENT IS NOT FINANCIALLY OR EMOTIONALLY ABLE TO HANDLE THE SITUATION AND IS GOING TO INCREASE OUR BURDEN, WHICH MEANS SOMEBODY ELSE IS GOING TO HAVE TO GET LESS IN SOCIAL SERVICES OR SOMEBODY'S GOING TO HAVE TO PAY MORE IN TAXES. THIS IS SMART GOVERNMENT. AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE IDEA IS COMING FROM THAT SOMEHOW IT'S A CONSERVATIVE THING TO WANT TO SPEND MONEY. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I'VE BEEN LISTENING AND I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. I WANT TO SAY ONE THING ABOUT ABORTION. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS ABORTION RIGHTS. ABORTION IS A PROCEDURE AND IT HAS NO RIGHTS. WHAT I BELIEVE IN IS THE RIGHT OF WOMEN TO MAKE THAT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND CRITICAL DECISION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE STATE OR ANY OTHER BUSYBODIES. AND THAT'S THE WAY I FEEL ABOUT ABORTION. I HAVE STATED REPEATEDLY WHEN THE ISSUE WAS SQUARELY BEFORE US, AS IT IS NOT NOW IN THIS BILL, PEOPLE CAN SAY ALL THEY WANT TO THAT ABORTION IS A SIN, BUT THEY WILL NEVER, EVER GET ME TO VOTE THAT IT'S A CRIME. WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THAT ELECTORAL COLLEGE BILL, SEVERAL PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT TRYING TO MAKE NEBRASKA RELEVANT. AND I SAID THAT NEBRASKA, IF RELEVANT, IS RELEVANT FOR THE

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WRONG REASONS, MEANING IT'S KNOWN FOR ALL OF THE WRONG THINGS, FOR FLEEING WHEN NOBODY PURSUES, HEARING A LEAF CRACKLE AND SAY, A LION IS IN THE STREETS, AND OPPOSE AND OBJECT TO ANYTHING THAT SMACKS OF TRUE COMPASSION. THIS BILL HAS NOTHING, IN MY VIEW, TO DO WITH ABORTION. I HAVE A PROFOUND RESPECT FOR KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION. I SEE NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM AND BY IGNORANCE. PEOPLE WHO ARE IGNORANT ARE TARGETS FOR ALL KIND OF SCAMS. AND IN THIS AREA WHERE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU DEAL WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE, BUT THE AMOUNT OF IGNORANCE ABOUT WHERE BABIES COME FROM...THEY KNOW WHEN A WOMAN'S BELLY IS LARGE, A BABY IS GOING TO BE BORN. BUT HOW BABIES COME INTO BEING...SOME OF THEM ACTUALLY THINK IF YOU HAVE SEX WHILE YOU'RE STANDING UP, THERE IS NO WAY TO GET PREGNANT. SOME EVEN BELIEVE THAT IF YOU DRINK A LOT...I SHOULDN'T EVEN...BUT IF YOU DRINK A LOT OF 7-UP BEFORE YOU HAVE SEX AND AFTER YOU HAVE SEX, THEN THE ACTION OF THE CARBONATED WATER MAKING YOU BURP WILL EXPEL ANYTHING THAT COULD LEAD TO CONTRACEPTION. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO TELL SOME OF YOU ALL THESE THINGS BECAUSE THEY KNOW HOW YOU'RE GOING TO CONDEMN THEM AND NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER. AND JUST SAY, YOU'RE GOING TO HELL IF YOU DO THIS. OUR CHILDREN AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT QUITE CHILDREN NEED SOMETHING BETTER THAN THAT, AND WE OWE THEM SOMETHING BETTER. THERE COMES A TIME WHEN REALITIES AND BIG ISSUES TRANSCEND THE SMALL ONES. THERE WAS A PRIEST WHO WAS STATIONED, AS I CALL IT, AT A SMALL PARISH BUILDING IN MY COMMUNITY, CALLED SACRED HEART. THAT'S WHERE THE SCHOOL IS, AND I FORGET THE NAME OF THE PARISH. I MEANT THE PLACE WHERE HE STAYED. BUT AT ANY RATE, THE ARCHBISHOP DECIDED TO MOVE HIM BECAUSE OF HIS AGE. I KNOW, HE KNEW, AND ANYBODY WHO IS AWARE OF WHAT I THINK AND WHAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES... [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...WOULD BE AWARE THAT THERE ARE MANY ISSUES WHERE HE AND I COULD NEVER SEE EYE TO EYE. BUT BECAUSE THAT MAN HAD CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY, HAD INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY, WHAT HE BELIEVED AS A CATHOLIC MEANT NOTHING TO ME. AND I WROTE A LETTER TO THE ARCHBISHOP OR SIGNED A PETITION OBJECTING TO HIS BEING REMOVED FROM THE COMMUNITY AND REQUESTING THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO STAY--OH, IT WAS ST. BENEDICT--STAY THERE. HIS PRESENCE WAS FAR MORE IMPORTANT BASED ON THE GOOD, POSITIVE THINGS HE DID THAN ANY DOCTRINAL, RELIGIOUS, OR PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES WE MAY HAVE. ON THIS BILL, IT TROUBLES ME THAT THERE IS SO MUCH IGNORANCE, SO MUCH FEAR, SO MUCH OF

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OTHER THINGS THAT HAVE NO ROLE, SHOULD HAVE NO ROLE, IN DETERMINING THE FATE OF THIS BILL. I WILL SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT AND THE UNDERLYING BILL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON FA16. [LB77]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AGAIN, THIS IS A CLARIFYING AMENDMENT THAT ARTICULATES CLEARLY THAT NO FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR ABORTION OR PROMOTION OF ABORTION. I URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF FA16. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON FA16. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE AMENDMENT TO LB77 BE ADOPTED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB77]

CLERK: 31 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: FA16 IS ADOPTED. RETURNING TO DISCUSSION ON LB77, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THIS BILL...MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I HOPE YOU'LL BE AFFIRMATIVE VOTERS ON THIS BILL. THE PROGRAM, FROM EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN REPEATED OVER AND OVER AND OVER, IS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE. STATES DOMINATED BY REPUBLICANS POLITICALLY, WHICH ARE ORDINARILY CONSIDERED BACKWARD, HAVE SUPPORTED THIS PROGRAM. NEBRASKA BEING BEHIND THOSE WHO ARE BACKWARD IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MAKE YOUNG PEOPLE NOT WANT TO STAY IN THIS STATE. WHY STAY IN A STATE WHERE YOU HAVE TO ARGUE ISSUES THAT OTHER PEOPLE TAKE FOR GRANTED? YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THINGS, IMPROVE YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE, AND WHOEVER YOU'RE HAVING THE DISCUSSION WITH, AND NOT HAVING TO ARGUE THAT THE EARTH IS ROUND RATHER THAN FLAT. THAT'S WHERE NEBRASKA IS. THEY OVERALL CLEAVE TO A FLAT-EARTH POLICY. THE LUDDITES ARE PEOPLE WHO WERE AGAINST MACHINERY AND OTHER TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES. SO ANY TIME PEOPLE HAVE A VERY BACKWARD ATTITUDE, THEY'RE REFERRED TO AS LUDDITES. I'M NOT GOING TO SAY THAT ANYBODY ON THIS FLOOR WOULD RECEIVE THAT DESIGNATION FROM ME WHEN I'M SPEAKING SERIOUSLY, AND I'M BEING AS SERIOUS THIS MORNING AS A HEART ATTACK. I WANT US TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO WOMEN THE KIND OF INFORMATION, THE KIND OF PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD READILY BE MADE

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AVAILABLE IF MEN WERE INVOLVED. THERE ARE INSURANCE COMPANIES THAT WILL PAY FOR...WHAT IS THAT BLUE PILL, WHATEVER THEY CALL IT? NIAGARA (SIC)...VIAGRA. WHEN MEDICAL STUDIES ARE UNDERTAKEN, WOMEN ARE NEVER OR RARELY ARE THE SUBJECT. WOMEN DON'T COUNT AS A WHOLE IN THIS SOCIETY, SO DON'T TELL ME EVERY WOMAN COUNTS. WE FORGET THAT OUR MOTHERS ARE WOMEN. I HAD SISTERS. TWO OF THEM ARE GONE. BOTH WERE YOUNGER THAN I. I HAVE MORE NIECES LITERALLY THAN I CAN COUNT. I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WITH WOMEN ALL OF MY LIFE, AND NOT MEANING A SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC WAY, BUT TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT I HAVE ALWAYS VIEWED WOMEN AS HUMAN BEINGS. I WAS ALWAYS SYMPATHETIC WHENEVER I SAW A FEMALE HARMED BY A MALE. I DON'T GET INVOLVED IN OTHER PEOPLE'S DISPUTES, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONS WHEN I'VE INTERVENED WHEN A MAN OR A MALE WAS MISTREATING A WOMAN IN A PHYSICAL WAY. EVERYBODY WHO KNEW ME KNEW I WOULD NOT TOLERATE A MAN ABUSING A WOMAN OR A BOY ABUSING A GIRL WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. WE ARE NOT TALKING ABOUT ANYTHING HERE OTHER THAN MAKING AVAILABLE TO A GROUP OF WOMEN... [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB77]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THAT WHICH IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE WOMEN WHOSE SPOUSES AND MAYBE THEMSELVES WILL BE IN HERE SEEKING TAX BREAKS. THE POPE SAID SOMETHING WHICH I WOULD NEVER DREAM OF SAYING. HE WAS TALKING ABOUT CONTRACEPTION. AND HE GAVE LIP SERVICE TO WHAT THE CHURCH TEACHES. AND THEN YOU KNOW WHAT THE POPE SAID, A MAN WHOM I RESPECT? CATHOLICS ARE NOT BOUND TO BREED LIKE RABBITS. THAT'S WHAT THE POPE SAID. HE'S TRYING TO GIVE A MESSAGE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT TAKES TO BREAK THROUGH THAT HARD VENEER THAT PEOPLE WHO BELONG TO CERTAIN RELIGIONS HAVE THAT WILL BLIND THEM TO ANY FEELING OF COMPASSION, SO I KNOW I CANNOT DO THAT. BUT I WANT THE RECORD TO BE CLEAR THIS MORNING OF WHERE I STAND. I'M GOING TO SUPPORT THIS, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT I COULD SAY THAT WOULD LEAD TO OTHERS OPENING THEIR MINDS, LETTING THEIR HARD HEARTS BE SOFTENED, LET THE ANGEL OF THEIR HIGHER NATURE WHISPER IN THEIR EAR... [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB77]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...AND SAY, IF AT NO OTHER TIME, THIS ONCE DO THAT WHICH IS RIGHT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BRASCH,

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YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. JUST BEFORE THE VOTE ON SENATOR BOLZ'S AMENDMENT, I HAD AN OFF-THE-FLOOR CONVERSATION WITH SENATOR NORDQUIST AND SENATOR BOLZ. FOLLOWING OUR CONVERSATION, I WAS VERY CONCERNED. AND WHEN I COMPARED AMENDMENTS...AND I WOULD LIKE TO...SENATOR NORDQUIST, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO SAY ON RECORD THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO STOP ABORTIONS AND TELL ME HOW THAT AMENDMENT WILL STOP ABORTIONS THAT SENATOR BOLZ HAD, IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN THAT, PLEASE, FOR CLARITY. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR NORDQUIST, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YES. AND SENATOR BRASCH STATED THE QUESTION. CERTAINLY, YOU KNOW, I WILL PUT MY PRO-LIFE CREDENTIALS UP AGAINST ANYBODY. I VOTED FOR THE 20-WEEK BILL. I WAS ONE OF THE INITIAL COSPONSORS OF SENATOR FULTON'S ULTRASOUND BILL IN 2009 AND SUPPORTED THAT BILL ALL THE WAY THROUGH. AND THAT CERTAINLY IS MY INTENT WITH LB77, THAT WE KNOW THAT PREVENTING UNINTENDED PREGNANCY IS THE BEST WAY TO STOP ABORTIONS. AND SENATOR BOLZ'S LANGUAGE MAKES IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT NO FUNDING THROUGH THIS FUNDING MECHANISM IN LB77 CAN BE USED FOR THOSE TYPE OF PROCEDURES. [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: SO WILL THAT AMENDMENT STOP ABORTION? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: IT MAKES IT CRYSTAL CLEAR IN STATUTE. THERE WAS ALREADY A FEDERAL HYDE AMENDMENT THAT RESTRICTED...THAT RESTRICTS FEDERAL FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE. BUT THIS MAKES IT PERFECTLY CLEAR TO EVERYONE WHO IS IMPLEMENTING THIS LAW, SO WE THINK IT'S A GOOD RESTATEMENT OF OUR VALUES THAT WE DO NOW. [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: BUT WILL IT STOP ABORTIONS? WILL ABORTIONS TAKE PLACE THROUGH ANOTHER AVENUE THROUGH THIS BILL? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THROUGH SOME OTHER... [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: THROUGH ANOTHER PROGRAM, ANOTHER... [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: NOT THROUGH ANY OTHER AVENUE IN THIS BILL, CERTAINLY NOT. AND THERE IS NO FUNDING...PUBLICLY FUNDED ABORTIONS BEING PROVIDED ANYWHERE EXCEPT FOR SPECIFICALLY THE LIFE OF THE

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MOTHER. AND THAT HAS TO BE APPROVED THROUGH MEDICAID AND THAT'S IN A...THAT'S SEPARATE FROM THIS, COMPLETELY SEPARATE FROM THIS BILL. [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: AND I'M STILL CONFUSED ON WHY YOU SAID, I WOULD LOVE TO STOP ABORTIONS, WHEN...DID YOU JUST TELL ME THAT THIS AMENDMENT WILL STOP ABORTIONS... [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: IT REITERATES... [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: ...IN THIS FUND? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: IT REITERATES PERFECTLY THAT NO PUBLIC FUNDS THROUGH THIS FUNDING MECHANISM WILL BE USED FOR ABORTIONS. SO IS IT GOING TO 100 PERCENT ELIMINATE ABORTIONS? IF THAT'S THE QUESTION, NO. BUT CERTAINLY, AS SOMEONE WHO COSPONSORED THE ULTRASOUND BILL AND VOTED FOR THE 20-WEEK BILL, LB77 WILL DO MORE TO REDUCE ABORTIONS IN NEBRASKA THAN THOSE BILLS COMBINED. [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: SO IT WILL REDUCE THEM, BUT NOT STOP THEM, THROUGH LB77. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YES, AND I THINK THAT IS, YOU KNOW, FOR SOMEONE WHO IS PRO... [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: ONLY REDUCE? [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YEP. SOMEONE WHO IS PRO-LIFE, I FUNDAMENTALLY THINK THAT'S A GOOD DIRECTION TO GO. [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: OKAY. I HAVE NO OTHER QUESTIONS. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR BRASCH: AGAIN, I AM CONCERNED. I THINK WE COULD DO MORE FOR PRO-LIFE, FOR ADOPTION, AS WAS SAID EARLIER. THERE'S MUCH TO CONSIDER HERE. I HAVE HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH MANY INDIVIDUALS WHOSE UNWED, POVERTY LEVEL AND BELOW, MOTHERS ARE GRATEFUL FOR THEIR LIVES, THAT THEY DID CHOOSE LIFE. I THINK JUST REDUCING THEM IS NOT AN ANSWER. USING OUR STATE AND PUBLIC FUNDS SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED TOWARD AN ABORTION. SO I DO ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE RED. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB77]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH, AND THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. SENATOR KOLTERMAN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB77]

SENATOR KOLTERMAN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I JUST WANTED TO INDICATE THAT I HAD AN ACTUAL AMENDMENT TO THIS BILL THAT I HAD PUT ON SELECT FILE THAT DEALT WITH ABORTION, AS WELL. MINE WAS A LITTLE BIT FIRMER IN NATURE. I MOVED IT TO SELECT FILE A COUPLE DAYS AGO BECAUSE I WANTED TO LOOK AT SOME TECHNICALITIES THAT WERE INVOLVED WITH IT. BUT IF WE CAN STOP ABORTION, I PROPOSE DOING THAT. I'M WILLING TO LET THAT STAND ON SELECT FILE AND CONTINUE TO WORK ON IT, SEE WHERE WE GO FROM THERE. I DO ADAMANTLY OPPOSE LB77, EVEN AS AMENDED, AND WOULD ENCOURAGE MY COLLEAGUES TO VOTE THE SAME WAY THAT I DO. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLTERMAN. SENATOR HOWARD. [LB77]

SENATOR HOWARD: QUESTION. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: DO I SEE FIVE HANDS? I DO SEE FIVE HANDS. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL DEBATE CEASE? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB77]

CLERK: 28 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, TO CEASE DEBATE. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: CEASE DEBATE. AND, SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR BILL. [LB77]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. AND I'LL KEEP THIS FAIRLY BRIEF. I THINK MOST OF WHAT NEEDS TO BE SAID HAS BEEN SAID AND BEEN SAID MULTIPLE TIMES. TO SENATOR KOLTERMAN AND SENATOR BRASCH'S POINTS, I COMPLETELY AGREE. THAT'S WHY I'VE SUPPORTED A NUMBER OF PRO-LIFE BILLS IN THIS LEGISLATURE. THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT THIS BILL. WE KNOW THAT 62 PERCENT OF BIRTHS TO LOW-INCOME WOMEN, TO THIS POPULATION THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IN LB77, ARE UNINTENDED. AND WE KNOW THAT A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THOSE BIRTHS, UNFORTUNATELY, WILL BE TERMINATED. THOSE BIRTHS, THOSE CHILDREN, WILL BE ABORTED. THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT ABORTION IS TO PREVENT UNINTENDED PREGNANCY. AND WHETHER YOU'RE PRO-LIFE OR PRO-CHOICE OR WHETHER YOU'RE A DEMOCRAT OR A REPUBLICAN WITH...PREVENTING UNINTENDED PREGNANCY SHOULD PROBABLY BE ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE CAN ALL COME TOGETHER IN THIS BODY ON. AND IT'S AN EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAM THAT PROBABLY HAS BEEN STUDIED

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MORE THAN ANY OTHER MEDICAID PROGRAM THAT THERE IS, THAT THESE WOMEN, ONCE THEY BECOME PREGNANT, WILL BE FULLY COVERED UNDER MEDICAID, ALL OF THEIR HEALTH SERVICES PAID FOR BY TAXPAYERS. AND THAT CHILD IN A LOW-INCOME FAMILY WILL LIKELY RECEIVE SUPPORT THROUGH THE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM, THROUGH THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM, THROUGH A NUMBER OF OTHER SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS, AT THE COST OF TAXPAYERS. AND WE CAN FIRST HELP PREVENT AND HELP MOTHERS HAVE PREGNANCIES WHEN THEY WANT TO AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY'RE HEALTHY WHEN THEY DO. BEFORE THEY COME INTO THE MEDICAID PROGRAM, BEFORE THEY GET PREGNANT, WE CAN MAKE SURE THAT THEY ARE HEALTHY, THAT THEY HAVE HAD CHECKUPS PRIOR TO GETTING PREGNANT. THAT'S WHAT THIS BILL DOES. AND STATES LIKE TEXAS AND SOUTH CAROLINA AND WYOMING AND OTHER CONSERVATIVE STATES HAVE SAID THIS IS THE CONSERVATIVE WAY TO DO THINGS, PREVENTING PREGNANCY. AND THE FISCAL NOTE SHOWS THAT TO THE TUNE OF \$10 MILLION THIS BIENNIUM THAT WE CAN TAKE FROM THE MEDICAID PROGRAM AND INVEST IN OTHER AREAS--EDUCATION, TAX RELIEF, INFRASTRUCTURE--AND, GOING FORWARD, \$13 MILLION A YEAR OF SAVINGS TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND \$14 MILLION A YEAR OF SAVINGS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, WHO DESPERATELY NEEDS THE SAVINGS. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF LB77. THANK YOU. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON LB77. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB77 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST FOR A RECORD VOTE. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB77]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 647.) 21 AYES, 23 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT. [LB77]

SENATOR KRIST: THE BILL DOES NOT ADVANCE. MR. CLERK. [LB77]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, A FEW ITEMS: NOTICE OF HEARINGS FROM THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, SIGNED BY THE RESPECTIVE CHAIRS. NAME ADDS, SENATOR WATERMEIER TO LB599; SENATOR BOLZ, LB315; SENATOR KRIST, LB599; SENATORS COASH AND KOLTERMAN, LB396; SENATOR STINNER, LB599; AND GARRETT, LB599. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 648-649.) [LB599 LB315 LB396]

MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR SCHEER WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 27, AT 9:00 A.M.

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, AYE.

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
Transcriber's Office

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OPPOSED, NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING AT 9:00.