

shoes and all these things. And I guess when I think back on when I was pregnant with my first child, a lot of the things that probably people want for their pregnancies we weren't able to provide either at that time. And I'm not sure that the state has any obligation, moral or otherwise, to provide monies, just extra cash money for women when they're pregnant because of how much money they make or whatever their poverty level, whatever you want to call it is. I think...I think I've talked to people about this, and there's an assurance that they will receive medical care, should they need and want it. And what we're talking about here is monies that are above and beyond that for whatever they choose to spend it on. And that would have been nice during my pregnancy. So if you're thinking that we should just...maybe we should just say anybody who's pregnant, we'll give them some money for those extra things that they want. But I'm not sure if that's the place of the state. Certainly we should provide what they need and what they must have, but I don't think this \$2 million or whatever is...is something that...that they have to have, that it's something that they need. It's just something that they want, that people want to give them. It's a redistribution, if you want...we're taking from families who are making some very tough spending decisions themselves nowadays, and we're giving it to people who...maybe there's other ways to cover some of these things, either borrowing equipment that they need to have new babies, or doing garage sales, or whatever it takes, those are the things that I did. I guess I was out talking to somebody about how she would go to school without having us pay for her child care. And I said, well, what we used to do was we took turns, neighbors took turns watching each other's kids while they were in school. Because the government has stepped in on so many of these programs, communities don't do that anymore and people don't do that anymore for each other. And I'm not sure if it's the chicken or the egg, which came first. But I think this is a kind of payment that is just a want payment, not a need payment. And I would like the opportunity to not vote for the committee amendments and to have a vote on the bill itself, so I won't be voting for the committee amendments.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Pirsch, followed by Senator Beutler.

**SENATOR PIRSCH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I will focus on the amendment, which actually is Senator Wesely's bill of LB 834. As we spoke about this in