

committee, actually this was kind of a compromise. The compromise being that while we do not give cash payments to people who are pregnant, to women who are pregnant, we, indeed, do care about their health, of them and of their babies. And so to that end I did agree with Senator Wesely that by raising the eligibility from 133 percent of the federal poverty level, slightly to 150 percent, that, indeed, we will get that fringe area of pregnant women eligible for all of the health benefits for them. And by increasing that we are allowing some of those working poor, perhaps, to have good health care for them and their children. And that's what I think our bottom line is. We do want people to be able to have good health care for them and their soon to be born babies. But the bottom line is they do not need the cash payments that so often are used for the detrimental harm to the unborn child. So again I do support the committee amendment. I do think that the bottom line is by expanding health care for those working poor to 150 percent of federal poverty guidelines that we, indeed, will be doing what our mission is, to help women and children be healthy and yet, by adopting LB 658, to eliminate the cash payment until that baby is born. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Have lights on from Senator Beutler and Senator Witek. Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler waives off. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Senator Pirsch, I wonder if I could ask you a question about the original piece of legislation, or about this whole issue. It's true at this time that in the last trimester of a pregnancy, that's when the federal government kicks in with their monies, matching funds for the federal government?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well, actually, Senator Witek, one of the discussions now in Washington is to eliminate that cash payment, the cash federal participatory payment for any woman who is pregnant under the age of 18, because, of course, for the very fact that women, particularly a young woman who is having the first child, immediately gets the almost \$300 and that's enough to move out. And it's only if she does move out, if it's an ADC home, that she will receive triple what she would get if she stayed in an ADC home.

SENATOR WITEK: And I agree with a lot of these things being discussed in Washington. But the Medicaid...they are eligible for Medicaid for their...all of their health coverage from the