

talking about here. But at a point about three or four years ago, the federal government backed out and said, we don't put any money in till they are six months pregnant, the second and third month on to six months, forget it, we are not going to get involved. And our state said that the second to sixth month are important months, that child ought to be cared for and we are going to do it on our own even if the federal government doesn't help. So we continue to do that, so we are I think the only state that did that and I think we are now saying, well, we can cut back a little bit but maintain at least some support and access to medical care for these poor women and their children, their unborn children. And I think that is a fair thing to do rather than totally eliminating the program. Now I will add to that that Senator Johnson and my bill, LB 201, ought to be included in the package because then it says that those that are near poor, not eligible for ADC but poor, nevertheless, that have medical needs, that are high risk to having a disabled child born to them, ought to also have some targeted assistance and some medical care. They can't get care under ADC but they need help, nevertheless, and this is one way to fund that program by reducing the ADC payment slightly and maintaining that care level that I think is at least minimally needed to make sure that the ADC mothers are well cared for and that taking those savings and putting them into a program for those women that get no help right now and are probably very deserving of it and if we could save even a couple or three or four children through that high risk bill, we will save more money than it costs actually to implement it. So I see these as intertwined issues. I think that they are germane in terms of their effort to try and help pregnant women and so even though we didn't go ahead with the amendment, it seems to me that they are linked. So again I will support this amendment but only with the understanding that the savings go into a high risk bill which my sense is would be a very wise investment. And recognizing again that we are one of the only states or maybe the only state that has any program like this now, the unborn program, and a slight reduction in it is not something I think is unconscionable.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. May I please introduce a guest of Senator Howard Lamb under the north balcony, Cora Mahoney, who is the Logan County Clerk at Stapleton, Nebraska. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. I think I have the order straightened out now.