

nutrition, the inadequate prenatal care, teenage pregnancy and pregnancy out of wedlock. Premature births are also...will also cost the taxpayer. It is estimated that a care for a child born prematurely is between \$30,000 to \$100,000. A study conducted by the University of Nebraska Medical Center of unwed mothers reveals that the group of mothers which had proper nutrition and prenatal care had a rate of birth prematurely of 5.3 percent. The group which did not have the correct nutrition and prenatal care had a premature birth rate of 13 percent. Nebraska's policy of making ADC available for pregnant mothers helps assure that proper nutrition would thereby serve to reduce the number of low birth weights and rate of premature births. At a time of federal cutbacks in nutritional programs for the poor mothers, it does not make sense to pass legislation which will result in loss of funds for qualified and needy pregnant mothers.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Nebraska has an obligation to care for those needy and that do qualify for help. We are talking about poor mothers, many of them unwed mothers. The ADC program is intended to help the mothers with dependent children. Unborn children, and I know that many of you support me on this, are also dependents and their mothers deserve the help so they may be provided with proper care and nutrition. I urge the rejection of this amendment. It is a major change, a major cut in the ADC program. I know that what they are doing has to be done by statute. It cannot be done in the Appropriations Committee and it cannot be done on any cuts to the appropriation bills. It has to be done by statute. I urge you to reject this amendment. Finally, and I do want to get this in. We certainly don't settle or come up or rearrange our priorities in this state. Yesterday we heard on the floor of this Legislature that the highway funds should not be reduced because they would deteriorate and ruin our highways. So we decided we won't do that and we will maintain the cost of millions of dollars for our highways and our roads and our streets. Well, LB 31 would deteriorate and ruin the lives of human beings. And I urge you to really take that into consideration when you decide how you are going to vote on this amendment. We had opportunities yesterday to come up with some funds. We did not and we were talking about streets, roads and highways. Today we are talking about human beings. Thank you.