

SENATOR SCHMIT: Fellow members of the Legislature, I support the amendment. I believe the amendment is consistent with the policy of this Legislature in the past. I agree with Senator Warner and Senator Hannibal that the action could be taken care of in LB 31, but I believe that perhaps now might be a good time to show an indication of how we feel so that as we proceed through the appropriations process it may affect how we act on some other amendments. I agree also with members of the Appropriations Committee we should be willing to make some additional cuts if we ever want to put these back in there. I have several suggestions if we can get to them, and I hope we can. Very frankly, they involve the agricultural sector, at least to some extent, and I think that we need to be able to do that. I think that it is more important to be able to take care of the young lady in this case who is pregnant than perhaps to worry about the statistics of the Department of Agriculture. I know there are those who would argue otherwise, but I don't believe there would be very many of them on this floor. I noticed the Appropriations Committee did indicate that that was a possible target for a cut. There are others that can be looked at. And I would just hope that those of us who have a long, long history of support for the unfortunate mother who is going to have to face the possibility of single parenthood ought to at least relieve that amount of stress that we can by providing some sort of financial support as early as possible. I would just like to point out also that in the event of complications frequently these costs escalate dramatically. Many times these persons have limited resources. Those costs then come back upon the county and upon the state. I think that it is important that we try to provide some assistance and to provide that assistance as early as possible. I agree with Senator Marsh in what she has said and again I concur with what Senator Hannibal has said, these are all worthy programs but we have to get our priorities out and so I am willing to relook at my priorities. I want to point out once again that many of my priorities fell by the wayside a long, long time ago and I don't think I complained too loudly. I recognize these are difficult times and there are some issues that can be deferred. There are some that cannot be deferred and this, I believe, is one of them and, therefore, I ask you to support the amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.