

September 28, 1992 LB 20

the wrong people, he certainly isn't listening to me, or he's thoughtless, and I don't like to think that, because I think I know my colleagues in the Legislature, I know you're not thoughtless people, you are caring people and you know who we're talking about today when we talk about ADC mothers. Another thing, as I passed out this facts and myth thing from the public...from Department of Social Services, you might take a look at the lower left hand side where it says the majority of poverty program expenditures are used to purchase health care services. More than half of these expenditures are used to purchase health care, including nursing homes for the aged and so on. Welfare provides supportive services for such needs as day care services for children, transportation for medical care, protective services for abused and neglected children, child support enforcement, and adoptive and foster care services. And when you look at that pie you see 65 percent of that money goes to medical. The maintenance is 25 percent, and that includes ADC and food stamps. So you see, over at Department of Social Services they're making good use of the dollars, and that brings me back to the Medicaid. And the other thing that we haven't brought up so far, and we should when we talk about Medicaid, and when we talk about the fact that 65 percent of this money goes for medical, is the cost of health care has escalated so severely in the last 20 years, and that's what we are up against in this particular instance, the cost of health care. These young women, most of them are women, are vulnerable. They're at an age that they are vulnerable if they don't get right nutrition, their children need the nutrition. And who can think of a more dependent child than that child in the womb. That child in the womb is completely dependent on that mother. His or her life comes from the mother. His or her nutrition comes from the mother. His or her health and eventual happy and healthy birth comes from the mother. So whether they get WIC, or food stamps, or whatever, that baby depends on that mom. And what set me off originally, aside from the fact that I think it's an unfair cut, were some of the things that were said about the people who are on ADC, as if they're some kind of sixth class citizen who doesn't deserve our help. That's not true. And I go back to what I said originally, in Nebraska most of them are hard working women who are trying to get out of the system. Look at that statistic on the second page of what I handed out originally, and it says...

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.