

others have been. It is necessary to discuss this issue because some other people are trying to carry on discussions that have not yet been completed. So this amendment gives the opportunity for additional consideration of the issue. And I'm going to tell you the way I felt most people would read it or would understand it. They would understand the amendment to say that on April 30, 1995 payments would be made to these women when pregnancy is determined and they would have voted against that, although, as drafted right now, that's what will happen, and that might sound confusing if you're listening. But the purpose of the amendment was to obtain discussion. It was a part of my project to keep this bill from coming to a vote and maybe that will have to be the strategy that is pursued. But if it were possible to locate somebody a little easier then maybe we would be that much closer, that much sooner, to achieving a purpose. So I hope there are others who will discuss the issue while this amendment is pending before us. And I see Senator Ashford's light is on, I don't know if he's going to discuss it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR MOORE: You've heard Senator Chambers' opening. The next light, Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I think it's interesting to take a little look at the...and put this into some historical perspective. The reason that we are where we are with the law now is that prior to the Reagan administration the generally accepted rule was that the...that the pregnant mother was covered from the point of conception until the point of birth. With the...during the Reagan administration, the first years of the Reagan administration, that was cut back, the federal match portion was cut back to three months prior to the birth. What we did in Nebraska is we did not...we retained what had been the prior rule without the federal match. The federal match remains where it is at three months and I believe that's why Senator Moore and I introduced that, one of the reasons why we introduced, other than save money. We introduced a proposal last year that brought Nebraska up to the point consistent with most of the other states or 36 other states and provinces which have accepted the...or retained the old rule that was adopted with the Reagan administration's change in the federal match program in 1981. So that's why we are where we are. It was not an act on the part of the Legislature to change anything, in fact, it was an act of the Legislature to retain the benefit that had been