

carefully and there's a broad, widespread concern and support for the concept of some sort of family cap and I understand the implications of that, that social engineering has been one term and micromanagement of the family. Nobody is saying that family can't go forward and have the child or decide to have a child or whatever the reason is, have a child. It's simply the fact that an additional cash payment would not be made in terms of ADC payments, but we have recognized that that child should not be harmed in terms of child care assistance, should not be harmed in terms of their health and would have access to health care, that they should not have problems being fed and so food stamps would be available. We also have added again the child support from the father who should be paying additional money to support any child that they bring into the world and so I just don't see the problem anymore. We've...it's a symbolic thing and we've already dealt with some of Senator Chambers' amendments that I think will help further. I would ask you to vote against the Dierks amendment. We've gone over this before. I think we've accommodated and responded to the concern and that currently as drafted the bill is a very reasonable attempt to try and address the issue of having more children once a family is on welfare. So I'd oppose the Dierks amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Madam President, members of the body, I, too, rise in opposition to this amendment. It is not a matter of saying this is a way to cut down on the size of families on welfare. We've already talked about the fact that the average size is somewhere around two. The issue is, who shall be responsible for children that are born into families where it's already clear that they do not have the economic ability to support that child? And for me, the responsibility is clear, it is with the parents and in particular the way we have designed this is to say that the child support for that addition of child goes directly to the parent who has custody of the child, usually the parent, the mother. And it will not pass through to the Department of Social Services. It will go directly to the parent and in that respect that parent will have more money available to them, more benefits available to them than if they went through the system of just getting the additional dollars that is awarded through ADC. I don't...the more I thought about it, the more I have difficulty understanding why we say it's okay for a significant number of men not to have to do anything towards the care of their children and why should the taxpayer