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(Neb.)- Nebraska Lawmaker Revives Prenatal Care Debate



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 03/21/2013 02:54 PM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - A long-shot attempt to repeal state-funded prenatal care services for illegal immigrants is drawing criticism from a variety of Nebraska groups.

Advocates for children, immigrants and medical clinics gathered at the Capitol Thursday to oppose a bill by Sen. Charlie Janssen, of Fremont.

Janssen, a Republican candidate for governor, presented the repeal measure to the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee.

Lawmakers restored coverage last year for the unborn children of the women, after a bitter fight in both the Legislature and with Gov. Dave Heineman.

Opponents accused Janssen of exploiting the issue for political gain. Janssen says he introduced the bill because the Legislature has new members who have not yet weighed in on the issue.