

things better for the poor families of our state, then you will want to take the step as now the wording is in this bill to say, look, if you make a reasonable effort to work with your children to go to school, fine, that's fine, but if you aren't willing to make that reasonable effort, then the option is there to reduce your cash assistance. And I think that's a powerful message and, yes, maybe it's too powerful for some of you, but I think for most of us we recognize how important it is to have our children attend school. And we always talk about parental responsibility, how we don't have parental responsibility anymore and that applies to not just ADC families, but to any family. But the truth of the matter is we've got to start changing that dialogue and start saying it is important that parents have their children go to school. It doesn't matter if they're on ADC or anything else, we think that's important. But this is one area where we can actually do something about it. Some of the others we have a more difficult time. But here we're saying, look, parents have responsibility to help their children by encouraging them to go to school. This option of potential loss of cash assistance is most unlikely not to be utilized because I think most parents, in fact, do want their children to go to school and will make a reasonable effort. But in those rare instances where that parent on ADC does not seem to care, does not seem to want to take any action, we have this ability to intervene and to try and send that message that I think is so important. Now there will be other amendments that will be coming forward from Senator Rasmussen and myself that will address a number of concerns with the bill and one of them will deal with the power of the case manager to make this decision and the ability to have an independent review process to address that concern and we'll bring that up later, but I am very comfortable with the language in the bill. I don't think we need the Schimek amendment, I think it waters down this to nothing and you might as well as just repeal the section in my view and I would oppose the Schimek amendment even though the Withem amendment seems to be what is up on the board. You're actually, I think we're still on the Schimek amendment.

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

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I'm listening to the debate and I really have a problem in trying to understand under Nebraska law when children are required to go to school until a certain age that we have to become bogged down in this issue. It seems to me as though that