

if we expect...I don't care whether people are poor or whether they're rich or what stage that they are that there should be some consideration that the children certainly get an education so that they can better themselves and whatever method we can use to do that. It appears to me that the original intent of the bill the way it was originally structured did just that and I think it's important that we follow through with that kind of a message. I don't review it as a way of picking on people because they're poor, but only to try to improve their lives because they need the educational values that are taught in our schools and so I don't support the Schimek amendments because I think what was originally written into the bill for the purpose of trying to enhance these children and get them a good education is the prime purpose of the original amendment and so that's what I think we should stay with. Thank you.

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

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I don't intend to harass this bill today nor prolong the debate, but this is something that just frankly sticks in my craw because I think what you're doing here is in some cases scaring people to death. Why aren't their children attending school? In some cases because they don't have adequate transportation. It's difficult for them to get their children to school. How is it going to help get these children to school by penalizing these parents and taking away some of their benefits when they have even less financial resources to cope with to get these children to school? Who will actually suffer if cash benefits can be reduced? It's going to be the children. We know that it's going to be the children. I just feel so strongly about this particular portion, that if we're going to leave this in here, then we ought to add a section that says the same applies to every other parent whose child does not attend school. That parent will be fined \$100 or \$50 or \$25 when their children don't attend school. Why are we penalizing financially the people who can least afford to be penalized? I just don't understand it and I can't accept it and that's why I have offered this amendment that would simply strike out the part about reducing the cash assistance and add in a sentence that says it is important that children of recipient families regularly attend school and that parents make every effort to see that they do and then you take up the rest of the language which says that there will be a process that will be set up. Yes, it sort of mirrors the School Discipline Act and that