

to have that child in school and that child is supposed to be there. We've taken that action long ago in this state. There is the option, the option, not the mandate, but the option to intervene and reduce the cash assistance. Now that is a value, but it's a value that we've held high in our state for a long time and I don't think it's a value that is out of line with a vast majority of citizens in this state. So I feel very strongly that there is nothing wrong with this section as amended by Senator Beutler and others on General File. It's very reasonable language that we have in there and I want to take the rest of my time to talk more generally about the misinterpretation of what this bill is all about by Senator Chambers in some of his comments this morning. This bill is a blueprint. It is not the detail, point by point, exact answer to every question that we can raise about this issue. It is a broad brush attempt to steer us in the direction on how we'd like to see the welfare system change. It is not, as Senator Chambers has characterized, it's something that puts the, as he would say, cart before the horse. Now the horse is in front of the cart in this case. We are saying this is where we'd like to go, here's the further information we'd like to have, here's the studies that we need to have, here's the detailed information that we need, bring all of this back to us at the end of this year and we will again consider this proposal next session and have to go through the process of passing legislation to enact and to pass legislation to fund this proposal. So we are not asking you to buy a pig in a poke, so to speak. We are asking you instead to chart a course and to understand that the details will be forthcoming and nothing final will be resulting from this bill outside of the child support elements in terms of the actual legislation, statutory language that will remain. The rest of the bill sets us off on a course of action that we need to take and we need to do that now this session because it will take a great amount of time to do the rest of the work that needs to be done. And although Senator Chambers and others will want to characterize those of us who support the legislation of being antipoor, antichildren, antifamilies, that is dead wrong. I don't think you accuse Senator Rasmussen, Senator Bohlke, myself and the thirty some, forty some other legislators that support this as being anything but very concerned, in my view, about trying to make a system that's not working better. We know the system doesn't work well now. It forces individuals to stay into that system longer than they would like. What they really want is a decent job. We understand that and although the bill doesn't go as far as I'd like to to assure that, it