

penalizing kids by insisting that the parents, that the parents don't take the initiative to send these kids to school. I say the parents and I use here again the example of my father who would not have never insisted that we go on and get any further education because he thought getting out in the work force was a more important issue than wasting our time going to school. If the parents of some of these children whether they're poor or whatever they are, have that same attitude, then obviously these children are going to reap the rewards of that kind of a background. So for those reasons and many others that have been expressed here, I continue to oppose the Schimek amendment, the Chambers amendment and would like to move the bill forward as it was originally brought out of committee. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Crosby, do you wish to speak to the Chambers amendment?

SENATOR CROSBY: Yes, thank you very much, Madam Chairman. I support the Chambers amendment. I tried this on the first go round to get rid of it altogether. I'd like to point out one thing that hasn't been talked about when we talk about the education. Article VII of our Constitution, Section 1 says, the Legislature shall provide for the free instruction and the common schools of this state for all persons between the ages of five and twenty-one years and then that is put that obligation and the implementation of all that is put into the State Department of Education. The state has an obligation to educate the children. And when you say that these people are not...you talk about the general public and then you talk about ADC as if they're not a part of the general public. Of course, they are. But what Senator Schimek said earlier is we single out one group and that's what I don't like about the "learnfare" is we're singling out one group. We owe them an education and I think the Department of Education and the schools have that obligation to see and find out and they do have people, they have truant officers, they have people who try to find out why they're not coming to school and work with them to see that they do come. So along with the caseworker it seems like you have a lot of people there who could be doing this without changing the whole system. I do think we should think about the fact that the Department of Education has an obligation there. The second thing is, in the April 3 World-Herald the sponsors of this bill admitted that one of the biggest costs for this bill is that we need 68 new caseworkers, 1.6 million a year in state and federal funds after the workers are phased in over 3 years. Another big