

cost is for additional child care expense, but as I said earlier, they are painting this bill as something that is going to save money. Well, it will take money away from the recipients of ADC who are children. Remember, they are children, and give it to the caseworkers, hire new caseworkers. Is that saving any money? I don't think so. I just wanted to point out those two things. If I have any time left I would yield it to Senator McKenzie. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Madam President and members of the Legislature, I appreciate the opportunity given to me by Senator Crosby to respond to the comments made by Senator Janssen and Senator Vrtiska and with all due respect I would beg to differ in their arguments about this is a reward. I find it hard to rationalize a reward being something that is taken away. Certainly people who need to be on assistance and knowing that this impacts their children directly in terms of the provisional language, it says it may be taken away, I do not see how it's a reward to say if your children are not in school we will take money away from you. I also note in the language that we're talking about intent and the intent is to encourage minor children to be in school. Encouragement in the true sense of the word means to give courage and taking money away because a child isn't in school, to me, is not giving courage but it's taking courage away from a family. It's discouraging. A family that is struggling, a single parent with two children who is doing their best to try to make things work suddenly looks at the possibility of losing funds to feed those children, losing funds to provide for the family. And with that I would again say I find it an interesting argument to say that what we're talking about here...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...is a reward because it is not a reward. If we were going to reward these families we might provide additional funds if their children were in school, not take them away if they were not. And I'm a proponent of having children in school and believe that everyone should be there, but we cannot tell people they have to be there and then expect that they will be there with a willing mind and the ability to learn. I think we have to do more than look at penalties or reduction of assistance if children, in fact, aren't in school. And there