

really have to, in order to get their money to survive, will really crack down on this child. In most of these circumstances, at least in my 13 years' experience in the classroom, most of these types of situations are situations where the family is not a conventional family. Economically, these families are hurting and the only thing you do by cutting off that type of funding is to make matters worse. You put more tension into the family. You put more tension between family...parents or guardians and the children. And the more tension there is, the less chance you're going to have for that child in school. You cannot assume that if you put financial pressure on the family that that is going to solve the child's problem. It will not. Even if the family said, we've lost our money, or we may be able to lose our money, we're going to take you and you will be in that classroom, ask yourself, you know, what situation is improved. School attendance is a problem society has as a whole. And, by the way, Nebraska has a very high attendance rate. We have a very low dropout rate. But school attendance is not the problem of the Legislature right now. School attendance is that which is at the community level, at the school level, with probation officers, with people of social services, with guidance counselors, and the parents, relation to the parents all working together to make sure the child is not only in school but has the proper environment and mental abilities that they can get the benefits of that educational process. This particular section does nothing to improve that but it does exacerbate the financial stability of the family. It will increase the amount of tension within the family. It will increase potentially the amount of abuse in the family and try to explain to me then at that point how we are helping that child have a better education. You are not. The fallacy of this section is that everyone is trying to solve all the problems because they have a tendency to link together at some point, yes, there is a link sometimes between our welfare process and some problems with children in schools. But to carry that link to this degree and to assume that the problems that will happen in the school will go away is simply...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...a stretch of the imagination. I know that the Schimek amendment will probably fail. I know the section will probably pass as it's in the bill. But, on the record, I want it at least to be shown that the testimony or at least some of the arguments on the floor was that in the end