

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Time. Would like to introduce some guests of Senator Schellpeper. We have fourth, fifth and sixth graders from Allen Consolidated Schools in the balcony. We have, along with them, their teachers and the bus driver. If you would all stand and be recognized, please. Senator Wesely.

**SENATOR WESELY:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, again, I applaud Senator Crosby's effort to try and enhance assistance to low income individuals and this would certainly be a nice proposal, if we could afford it. Unfortunately, I think the economic fiscal impact of this would be tremendous. Not knowing what that fiscal impact would be, I think we should be very cautious. Again, the level of assistance, particularly at 185 percent, in my view, could again serve as a magnet to attract people into the welfare system to achieve that kind of a benefit. It's hard to say, you know, that may be an overstatement but that could be one of the concerns. And so my thinking is the proposal that Senator Rasmussen and Bohlke and myself that we'll offer attempts to set a floor on the cash income and again ensures the health care and child care up to 185 percent of poverty is trying to get at the same issue but in a way that is, frankly, less...less costly than what is being proposed by Senator Crosby, but still adequately or at least attempts to be adequately able to address the concerns of the low income moving off of welfare. So Senator Chambers wasn't sure whether he would support Senator Crosby's proposal or Senator Rasmussen's or mine. I would think you would want to support Senator Crosby's proposal, just knowing you, Senator Chambers. There's...I don't want to mislead you that we have a wonderful and better plan. It is not as good a set of benefits as is being suggested here by Senator Crosby but I don't think we can afford what is being suggested here. And so, again, I would ask you to oppose the Crosby amendment, but be interested in trying to pursue that. I would like to give the rest of my time to Senator Rasmussen if she has further comments.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Rasmussen.

**SENATOR RASMUSSEN:** Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, appreciate what Senator Crosby is attempting to do here. One of the frustrating things about this whole legislation is that people are typically on the same side or are having legitimate disagreements about how to go about this policy change. And I simply would reference my remarks this morning that I think what is offered in this particular amendment, while it would be