

the caseworker or anybody else which would reduce that family to a status of extreme hardship. If you have any questions, I will be prepared to answer them. I hope you will notice that during these presentations I'm taking no more time than I think is necessary to make the point. As long as it appears that we can get something worthwhile done, I'm going to work to do that, because when this monstrosity becomes the millstone hanged around the poor families' neck, the poor family which will be treated worse than the one who slew the albatross, in the rhyme of the Ancient Mariner, I would like that millstone to be as light as possible. It will be beyond my ability this session to craft a program of assistance which I think is fair and equitable, one which would, in fact, provide a basis for people currently on public welfare to have an opportunity to leave it. But I will take whatever little I can get. I showed this to Senators Rasmussen and Wesely, but I will let them speak for themselves as to their reaction to it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wesely, followed by Senators Schimek and Rasmussen.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I rise in support of the Chambers amendment. It does make an excellent point and really one that we should have caught. And so I applaud him for bringing it to our attention. With the cutoff, the two-year cutoff, we do...we did add with the committee amendment language found on page 17 of the E & R amendments, that the department shall develop policy guidelines to allow for cash assistance to persons who have received the maximum cash assistance provided by this section, who face extreme hardship without additional assistance. Senator Chambers would add pretty much the same language that we would, in terms of the cutoff on the "learnfare," that if they face extreme hardship then they would not proceed with the cutoff of assistance. And that's exactly what we put into place with the two-year limit, so it is consistent with that effort, and, as was indicated by Senator Rasmussen, a definition of that is requested under the amendment that's pending. I think this is a sensible effort to recognize it. Nobody wants to have a situation where the "learnfare" provision ends up having people thrown off into the streets as a result. I don't think that accomplishes anything. But, certainly, this will be helpful and a guiding post, so I do support the Chambers amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Schimek,