

the system and its impact on individuals. We talk about, again, an implementation of the waiver, take another look at how some of these ideas like "learnfare" and family cap have an impact and if they're not productive we can look at ways of making changes. And that will be good enough for now. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I understand there is an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend. (FA552 appears on page 1875 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, because of the rapidity with which we are moving I will state what this amendment does. It's on page 15 in line 3. After "months" we would place a period. Then this language would be stricken. "Or is over the age of 12 weeks for children born after the initial 10 months of assistance." This is for the purpose of striking language which discriminates actually among children. It does not get at the parent. It does not reduce cash benefits. So I'm not talking about what has been referred to as the family cap. Under ordinary circumstances if a child were to be born prior to the...a recipient getting on welfare or within a period, I presume less than this 10 months, then the self-sufficiency contract would require the members of the family whose youngest child is over 6 months to participate in various activities. What the language that I'm striking would say is this. However, if a child is born after that 10-month period on assistance, the period of time would only be 12 weeks before these activities would have to be engaged in. So in the case of those children fortunate enough to be born before a certain cutoff date, the mother would have the six months before having to participate in these various activities. If the child were unfortunate enough to come a little later, then he or she would have the benefit of the mother's presence for only 12 weeks. This is discrimination among children. It means one child born at a certain time is to have the advantages of the mother's presence and care for a longer period of time than a child unfortunate enough through no fault of his or her own to have been born at a later time. So if this amendment is adopted, it will mean that at whatever point a child is born, after six months the family, those who are covered by this self-sufficiency contract, would have to engage in these various