

get off of welfare and it is my motivation for supporting this legislation and that is that I think the existing system is oppressive to women and it is deeply founded in sort of an underlying message that women need somebody else to take care of them and I believe that that is not true and that I want people to be able to move off of welfare. I know it is a much more dignified way of living. I've gotten a little off course here but I think although it is confusing about trying to match up policies for those on welfare and those not on welfare, I think recognizing the way this amendment still leaves intact several other aspects of the policy impacting the requirement to participate in the contract as well as the two-year limit that I will support it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. Senator Beutler. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members, I echo some of the things that Senator Chambers said because I think that we are comparing two sets, two different sets of women, women who have a professional job of any kind and are firmly ensconced in a law firm or a state job or any of that kind of thing, already have the wherewithal to be able to take the time off that they need. And certainly here in the Legislature we work those things out between our employees and us. We don't have some caseworker standing there telling them what they have to do. So I don't think that is a good comparison at all. And these women have the opportunity to discuss with their employers what they're going to do when the time comes when they need the time off and they also undoubtedly have health care, health benefits, medical benefits and day care and that's very important. I went back to work very quickly with most of my four children when I had them because I had a good agreement with my employers and I had health care coverage. I had Blue Cross-Blue Shield way back and I also had very, very reliable good day care. My children were home with a housekeeper whom I knew and trusted and we had no problems. These women that we're talking about in this amendment don't have all those benefits and don't have all those advantages. Some of them are out there almost completely alone. Their families abandoned them for different reasons or perhaps their parents are dead. This can happen without...it's no fault of their own and is no fault of the children. And the other thing that I want to mention again is that we don't have...in Nebraska the statistics show that the average ADC recipient is not on for years and years and years.