

find a way to rebuild their lives and they turned to the welfare system and they didn't want to be in the welfare system any more than anybody else does, but that was their only hope and their refuge away from a horrible family life and abusive spouses who, well, the stories were just incredible, frankly, at the hearing. And here we saw the stories brought to us by LB 1000 and Senator Bernard-Stevens and they were similar to the stories we heard from the welfare hearing and clearly there is a link between domestic violence and the welfare issue. That's the thing about welfare. It ties into so many things. It ties into education, it ties into health care. That's another reason people go onto welfare. The child care situation, transportation, the job situation, but clearly domestic violence played a role in a substantial number of cases that led to women and their children having to turn to welfare for support. I think if we can find ways to head off domestic violence, one of the bills that we've added in here of Senator Byars and I have on family resource centers, an attempt to head off family violence, to intervene before it occurs. These are the sort of things, keeping families intact and working with these problems, heading off violence, heading off disruption of the family, these are outstanding efforts and I just want to commend Senator Bernard-Stevens. I think he has hit the issue right on the head. I'm concerned about Senator Chambers' opposition, but otherwise I just want to again say that the legislation that underlies this amendment is something we're going to have to address. Domestic violence is underfunded and somehow or another we're going to have to find funds to address it so, thank you.

**PRESIDENT ROBAK:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator McKenzie wishes to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 30 fifth graders here from Doniphan Elementary School in Doniphan, Nebraska, and three teachers. They are all in the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Thank you very much. Senator Rasmussen, your light is next.

**SENATOR RASMUSSEN:** Madam President, members of the body, we heard this bill in committee and it's right on target in terms of something that needs to be done and that's more substantial funding of domestic violence programs to deal with the support that people need, both adults and children, who are victims of domestic violence. And I applaud Senator Bernard-Stevens for attempting to find some funding source for it. I understand