

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members. Yes, I think that Senator Will has brought something to our attention that I have thought about all along on this bill, and one of the things is that the counties, if people are arbitrarily taken off the state ADC and that kind of assistance, then they are going to look to their local subdivisions or local people to help them keep going. That's going to put a burden on United Way, on the People's City Mission in Lincoln, the mission in...The Open Door in Omaha, it's going to put a burden on all the shelters. It's going to put a burden on all of the social service nonprofit agencies who offer help to families that need help, the Pantry, Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, every church, and maybe that's the way it should be. Maybe we should all take this back as our personal obligation to help these people, and then you'd have to put your money where your mouth is because you allow the state to pay for these things through your taxes and you think that you've done a good job and now you're trying to reform the way it's...the way the system works, and you think there again, oh, we're doing such a wonderful thing. But if this bill is passed I predict it again, I'll tell you next year Social Services is going to come back asking for a lot of money to put all these programs and these monitoring things on "learnfare" and so on, got to put all those in place. They're going to need more money. Along with that there will be people who give up and they'll go to the local agencies and try to get help rather than keep fighting this system, rather than keep fighting that caseworker, rather than keep fighting with someone who they think is hostile to them. So, I thank Senator Will for bringing this to our attention, and he's got a point. So I think you better think about it from your counties' point of view, from your cities' point of view, from all of your nonprofit agencies who help people who are in trouble. They're all going to have an extra burden. Thank you.

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

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Madam President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to this amendment. And I do understand why Senator Will brought it and have visited with some of the folks from the county to talk about the impact on their system of services. And I think in the form that the bill was, when it was originally introduced, I could understand some of their concerns. However, as others have pointed out, I think it's important for people to remember that we are not talking about the elimination of health care benefits. As a matter of fact,