

before we'll extend a hand? How about all those statements, you take a step toward me, I'll take two towards you? Better to light one little candle than to curse the whole world for darkness. Brighten the corner where you are, or cast your bread upon the waters, after many days it will come back to you. All of those things, Senator Hillman, then we come with a very modest proposal, such as this. Instead of a woman being in abject, grinding poverty, she gets to rise, rise up as though on the wings of eagles, to a position of at least 133 percent...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...of the federal poverty level. Isn't that something we're all looking forward to? Isn't that what we want to put all of our children in a position to reach, 133 percent of poverty. I think the amendment is very modest. I think it accords with what has been represented to us as being the goal of the bill. It will not make it more attractive to be on welfare, it will show how unattractive people deem welfare to be and we'll see how many will take advantage of this opportunity. If a large number did and there was an outflux of people from welfare, isn't that what we want? And if others don't, then we're no worse off than we are now. So the only thing that I see out of this is the possibility of a positive result.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in opposition to this amendment. I appreciate what Senator Crosby is trying to point out, and it is a common theme that we heard over and over again from welfare recipients, and that is...and it has been true with the system as we have right now that when people try and go to work there is a tremendous cliff effect in terms of the kind of support they get for child care and for health care. And they have been, in fact, disincentives for people going to work. And in response to that what we have done is a couple of things. One is the 60 percent disregard of income, but the other is to say, okay, let's try and accomplish a gradual slope so that as people's income increases they can pay more for their child care support, as well as their health care. And that's what we've attempted to do, and we've extended that support from the existing level, which is 110 percent of poverty, to 185 percent of poverty for the child care support. It is different than what Senator Crosby is proposing, yes, in the sense that we are asking for participants to share in that