

impact on the State of Nebraska, on county government, municipalities, the potential caseload on private social service providers, and the potential for any increased burden on and reliance upon the foster care system. That's what I said earlier, what you're going to face is United Way, all of the social...all of the private social service providers are going to face a new impact when...if this bill passes, because so many families are going to be out there when they are cut off after the two years, and the new child is not given assistance, that they are going to...they are just not going to be able to cope with it. And I don't know what will happen to them, a lot of them will be living, you talk about homeless, we are going to have more homeless. That's what is going to happen. They will be living in their cars, they will be doing all kinds of things to try to...and the point about that is that they have to argue with the case manager, or the caseworker, or you have all these mediation things in here, and that is fine, good idea, but a lot of these people get to the point where they can't argue any longer. Their spirits are down so bad that they cannot come back and try to get back into the system or do what they have to do to get back into the system. So I would ask you to support this amendment. I think it's a way for us to pass the bill with another six months of study and bring in something next time with the first two parts of this bill are fine. All I'd ask you to do is take this out so we eliminate that two-year limit and we eliminate all those other provisions that so many of us find unacceptable. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I, again, I appreciate Senator Crosby's concern. She has been long an advocate for children and families, a strong spokesperson for the poor. I respect her greatly and her work in that effort. But I do oppose this amendment. It basically guts the bill and does a study. We've spent two days of working through the elements of this legislation, and at this point in time, I understand this is the last amendment up on the bill, I think to now take this step to gut and to study would be inappropriate, and we've spent a lot of time refining this, and it was needed. Now we all understand, I would hope, by now, that this legislation will have to come back to us next session, but the idea of just saying go forth and work with everybody, and think