

between what kind of professions we steer women in to and the kind of pay they are going to get, and their ability to live on that kind of pay? I think that we have out there people who typically aren't involved in this discussion ready to join with us in working on welfare reform. We will lose that if we return back to just simply a study, with no sense of direction about where we would like to go. It is also imperative to recognize that many of the things that welfare recipients told us were disincentives for them to work, that were barriers to them to getting off of welfare are in this legislation, corrected in this legislation. The 60 percent disregard of earnings, the intensive case management, yes, it will cost some additional dollars to do that intensive case management, but to go from a caseload of one to two or three hundred down to one to about seventy allows case managers to work more closely with welfare recipients, and hopefully in a much more meaningful way than has ever happened before. The 185 percent extension of child care support and health care support, the fact that we are not going to count the income of minors in the family, folks told us that if they got divorced and they had a nice car and a house that ended up counting against them, we took that out. You can have one car, one house, and not count that. Folks said that you penalize us for getting educational loans and scholarships and Pell grants by counting that as income, so we are changing that and not counting that as income. We are doing many, many things in this legislation that says we support your efforts to get off of welfare. I believe that what this does is move us away from an attitude of saying we are going to take care of women, to say we are going to enable them, we are going to promote their capacity to care for themselves and for their children, and we are going to remove the existing barriers that have been in place, that keep them, that keep them down and make it so impossible for them to move up and off of welfare. I would encourage you to vote against this amendment. While I recognize where it is coming from and why, it stops us dead in our tracks and prevents us from moving ahead with some very important and necessary legislation.

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

SENATOR DAY: Madam President and members, I rise in opposition to Senator Crosby's amendment and in support of this legislation. I haven't really talked about it yet as we've gone through a lot of these amendments, but I think I come up to support for it from a little different reason, and I think it is