

one that a lot of you might share with me. I look for welfare reform because I was tired of the phone calls that I've got of women that had a job offer, but couldn't do it because the system was holding them down, or they were working and they had a chance to get a raise but they couldn't take it because if they did they lost their child care. It was very frustrating to me to tell some of them I don't know what else you can do. You are probably better off going on welfare, and that was where I came from with this whole thing. I wanted to make it better for them to work than to be on welfare. I have a lot of respect for these women that find themselves in these situations. At one time I was a single mom and was not making the ends meet and I understand where they are at and where they have to come from. But I think what we tried to do, the good things, which we haven't really talked about a lot with this legislation, is what is important and the ways that we can help them get off welfare and get to self-sufficiency. I think the intensive case management is very important, that they work with one case manager who can direct them in the way that they need to go, whether it is self-esteem, whether it is learning how to do an interview, whether it is going out and actually getting that job. I think most women want to work. I think they are very capable of working. I think the problem has been the cliff effect, and I think if we do adopt Senator Crosby's amendment, we would lose that. We would lose that ability for these women to continue to get help with child care and health care as they get off the system. Kind of all came home to me this last week when I was home, I have a 23-year-old daughter, who is a college graduate, looking for work, and not finding what she really wants to do, so is having to work for us in our office, and struggling. She can't afford to get out and get her apartment yet, and she has a friend who is a single mom and her friend is on welfare. She came home and she said, you know, Mom, she lives in a very nice apartment. Nanette had a sore throat and wanted to go to the doctor, but she couldn't. She knew she had to pay for that. She says every time something is wrong, she can run to the doctor and it is taken care of, she doesn't have to work, she says, you know, it really is not such a bad deal. And it was very difficult for me to tell her that she was better off doing what she is doing, and I think that is something that we want to change. We want to make it better for them to be working than to be on welfare. Again, I stress that the ideas in this legislation came from the recipients. Nobody was sitting on high and making these decisions; and, yes, there is a cost to this, but I think the cost is important because I think