

SENATOR WESELY: You bet. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Wesely, your light is the last light, would you like to close.

SENATOR WESELY: I am going to just take a couple of minutes, and then give the last minutes to Senator Rasmussen on this. I want to begin by thanking Senator Rasmussen for extraordinarily hard work on this issue, in taking a very difficult issue and working through a number of compromises, and she has done a great job. Senator Bohlke, Senator Ashford, others who have been supportive, the Health and Human Services Committee have all worked hard on this issue and this body has. We have been through now two rather long discussions about the issue, and I must say, although some would characterize the discussion as a filibuster, I would not. Senator Chambers and Senator Crosby have offered constructive amendments. They have been willing to talk about their concerns. We have been willing to listen. I admit we haven't always agreed. We haven't always accepted the amendments, but I think you'd grant us that as best we can, considering our different views on the issue, we have tried to where we can reach a consensus. And it has improved the bill. The floor debate has been positive in the sense of identifying weaknesses and trying to address those. We've adopted numerous amendments from the committee, from General File, now to Select File. The bill is a better bill now than it was when we started and it is thanks to so many of you, and I appreciate that a great deal. I am not going to run through the list of improvements on the bill. I think Senator Rasmussen is going to do it, but all I can say is that this bill will improve the welfare system. We've talked about the negatives, but there are many, many positives that will be found in the bill, and I am proud of the work that we've done and I think it will overall enhance the lives of those among us who are poor and in need of welfare services. With that, I'd turn the rest of my time over to Senator Rasmussen.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Madam President, members of the body, I want to thank all of you, not only for just allowing time for this debate, but by participating in it. And I thank not only those of you who have been supportive, but especially those who have challenged the ideas, not only on the floor, but on the other side of the glass. We took an idea that came from the