

Nebraska State Senator makes. That's what type of poverty level we're speaking of, \$375 per month. What the committee amendments to 418 would have done is they would have raised that to \$475 per month that could be shielded. This amendment is adding the committee amendments to 418 onto 419. It lets the noninstitutionalized spouse shield \$475 of income, in other words, \$75 more a month than we, as Nebraska State Senators, make. Again, it's not a huge, huge, principally, sum but it allows that noninstitutionalized spouse a little more freedom to live a normal life without having to live in poverty. Okay, that's the positive side of the amendment. I will be very up front with you explaining that there is a negative side to this, as there is in all spending measures. By doing this, by adding this amendment, adding the 418 amendment onto to LB 419, you are basically raising the '88-89 fiscal impact of this bill by \$400,000. It costs us an additional \$400,000 to allow these individuals that really, through no fault of their own, are seeing their loved ones institutionalized in a nursing home and not being able to afford to live a dignified life with those individuals institutionalized. For the next year, '89-90, it will be roughly \$500,000 added. I think it's a good public policy choice to make. I urge you to adopt this amendment. It is your choice at this late session and a late time in the session whether this is how you would like to see \$400,000 of state taxpayers' money spent. I think it is a good place to spend it and I would urge you to adopt the amendment...or to return the bill to Select File for the purposes of adopting the amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Moore. Go ahead, Junior.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, dad. You know, even someone that can be called Howard Lamb, Jr. can support this amendment. I support Senator Withem's amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I don't know what more you can add to that.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Withem mentioned that...and told you that this is going to add \$519,000 to the General Fund. What he neglected to tell