

bringing to you to be sure that if and when this bill does move that's it's the best we can do because, as I said early this morning when we first started, no one can argue about trying to deliver services of any system in a better way. But this particular part of this from the very beginning I did not like and just changing the work to may doesn't do it for me. If Senator Beutler brings something later I might look at it, but right now again I point out to you, you are setting up a whole new system here and originally the Welfare Reform Act was sold as a money-saving mechanism because we're going to cut back on welfare payments. Well, just taking money away from a mother whose child won't go to school or she's having some problem getting that child to attend school regularly isn't going to solve our budget problems, let me tell you, it is not. Plus the fact that, as I told you earlier, in Wisconsin the "learnfare" this year alone is going to cost \$10 million because you are setting up a tracking system, a monitoring system, more case work for the caseworkers. That all costs money. It does not come inexpensively and it doesn't come free. You have to pay those people. Now again I say, and I think you should think about this, surely, and I'm quite sure right now, there is the caseworkers pay attention if the child is not going to school, so does the school. And if some parents cannot seem to get with it, why should you punish the rest of the family and why should you punish the other people who are with it and maybe just one child is at fault and so that spoils it for the whole family? They lose money for the whole family. So it isn't just a matter of saying, well, we're going to punish this family because the child is not in school. It's a matter of looking at it from a practical point of view as to whether or not that family is actually going to survive, and if the family doesn't survive and they lose this money and the mother gets discouraged and quits working, maybe she's working at a part-time job trying to get off of it, then you've taken about six steps backwards as far as I'm concerned. So I'll close with that and remind you again it's on page...top of page 25 that I'm simply eliminating all the language between line 1 and line 7 and remember that in Wisconsin when they got this system set up, this year alone it's going to cost them \$10 million. I think you would think about that because this bill today isn't perfect and surely we can come back, they're going to have at least two studies going, surely we can come back and try to correct or refine some of the things that we don't feel are being done in a good way right now. So we can still do some of these things, but I think the "learnfare" is a particular pernicious part of this bill. Thank