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LB 514

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. While this discussion has been going on, Senator Chambers, Senator Bruning and others have been discussing what we could do as well, and I would like to ask Senator Chambers if he would yield to a question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I will.

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Chambers, if we would adopt this amendment, proposed Amendment 302, and if we would commit to do an interim study, in seriousness, on all aspects I guess of the Lifeline Program over the interim, and I would invite your involvement in that, would you be acceptable to that proposition at this point in time?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I would, Senator Bromm, and in the same way that Senator Kristensen has raised some issues, Senator Beutler has raised one, I have some, and I'll mention one that another of my colleagues mentioned in terms of people being qualified for some of these other types of assistance programs but, for whatever reason, not wanting to participate, we might be able to fashion some kind of a system which would say if they could establish that they're entitled to some of these other programs, participation in them, but choose not to, they would be able to get the subsidy. But those things, as I point out, are too complicated to be worked out at this point on the floor. So, since you're willing, from what you said, to consider them all within an interim study, I'm more than willing to go along with that. And when this amendment is adopted, I will have nothing further to do with the bill this session.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. And I think he's...Senator Chambers has raised a valid concern that we've all had and that is, with the advent of...of I guess deregulation and all of the aspects of that, how do we deal with some of these issues? And I think this raises a valid improvement to the bill and we will work on an interim study this summer with any senator that's willing to participate, and I would encourage the body then to adopt Senator Chambers' amendment. Thank you.