

throughout the state where families are trying to help themselves and take care of them. If everyone of these would go to an institution or to a nursing home, do you know what that would cost? Over a million dollars a year. Who would pay for it? The State of Nebraska. Here they are parents that are trying to help and we are not willing to help. I think we should be. It is a disgrace to me not to help these individuals and I feel that we should. So I really encourage you to support this amendment or this bill and I commend Senator Schmit and Senator Wesely for bringing something like this forward. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker and Senators, I have been known as a Democrat and I have been known as a conservative Democrat and I have always campaigned throughout my district telling people, I will do anything in my power to help those who cannot help themselves but I will never lift a finger to help an able-bodied man or woman who will not work and who just wants to be at the public trough the rest of their life. I sat at this committee hearing and I listened to these people. So as one conservative speaking to the other conservatives, Republicans and Democrat conservatives in this chamber, I say it is just smart economics for us to vote for this bill and those people who are now living at home and maintaining themselves but need just a little bit of extra money each month to maintain themselves in their home, give them that extra boost rather than letting them go into a public institution where the cost to we taxpayers is probably going to be four or five times what it is. Secondly, you have to look at it from a moral standpoint. I know many people here have said, oh, these people are making more money than the ones that are working for a living. I doubt that very much. What I don't think has been brought out today is, these handicapped people, maybe they with the money we give them from the state and the money they make from private enterprise does give them eight hundred or nine hundred a month, maybe a thousand a month. But you have to take into consideration they have extra expenses that you and I do not have. They have to buy wheelchairs. Sometimes they have to be repaired. Some of them have medication bills that run as high as \$75 a month. You and I do not have that and as I questioned these people at our committee hearings and some of them did come up with seven and eight hundred dollar a month income, I asked them to tell me where their money went and when we got all through with them they ended up with about ten bucks a month to buy beer or go to a movie or something like that. Ten dollars a month left, if they