

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay, and one final question, Senator Wesely, you also mentioned that this is a pilot program and will sunset in four years and that the intention is to be able to tell whether the benefits have outweighed the costs and I assume as to the continuation of the program. Is that correct?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR VICKERS: How will that be determined?

SENATOR WESELY: Well there will be an annual assessment of how many were served, who was served and in what manner they were served, the cost involved and then there is a determination at some point as to what savings there are. In Minnesota they did this with their pilot program and found tremendous benefits and then after a review, I think about two or three years after their pilot program started they expanded it because it was so successful. And so we hope the same results will occur but they will keep track of how it is working and who will benefit.

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay, thank you, Senator Wesely. I would just point out to the body and again, I think that this is a sensitive issue. When a disabled person needs help, obviously those of us that Senator Higgins points out that have a conscience, and I think the majority of us in here probably do, do feel some responsibility to address that situation and it seems to me that with the income guidelines that Senator Wesely and Senator Schmit have got in the bill would probably protect the costs as associated with this program. I would point out one problem, potential problem with the portion of the bill that says that it is going to be sunsetted or taken a look at in four years from now. As Senator Haberman pointed out, I can't think of any program that started that has been stopped with one exception that I am attempting to stop and my good friends that are bringing this bill in are two of the ones that are opposing to try to stop this program. So, I question the validity of whether or not a person is going to be able to definitively tell four years from now the cost benefit ratio and make a determination as to whether or not this program continues. I would strongly suggest that probably the program will continue regardless of the costs but at this point in time I think I will support LB 389.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, just a few brief comments. I think I have been as critical of anybody of our welfare programs where we have given too