

Senator Maresh is going to offer an amendment on Select File I believe we can support which would limit to \$300 per family per month and not have \$600 if you have two children or more that get this help. So, I think that is something that might ease some concerns but overall I would like to respond to, number one, Senator Haberman talked about \$600 per month to an individual with a handicap working. That is not true. It is \$300 per individual so that is the maximum they could get and when we talk about this sort of assistance it is not cheap. It is very expensive to provide this sort of minimal care that these people need. It is not inexpensive but the costs are so much lower than the alternatives. I want to call to your attention the fact that the Beatrice State Developmental Center will be costing the State of Nebraska \$31,000 per person per year starting this next fiscal year, \$31,000 per person per year. We are talking about \$3,600 per person per year which is much much cheaper. Now this is not to say a direct comparison at all. I don't want to make that point. I am just saying that this is a much lower cost alternative to some of the other alternatives that we do have at the present time and keep in mind also that this bill is very fiscally prudent because the Welfare Department must look at all existing support programs that now exist before they determine that there is no alternative way to help these people that obviously have a need and meet all the need requirements and at that point then they can use this program. So, I think that you are going to find the investment a wise one. I think that what you are going to find is that you are going to add love, family love to the care we provide to these disabled children and disabled individuals and that is a big difference to these people and may help them in ways that we don't even know about at this time and I will leave my last couple of minutes to Senator Marsh who wanted a chance to talk on the bill.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President. I think it is quite brave when he didn't know what I was going to say. I do support this proposal but he didn't ask me when he said he would give me a minute whether I supported this proposal or not. I want to tell you that this is a way to stretch the current state dollars that are available to have more services when you can help someone remain within a private home rather than needing to be placed in an institutional setting, whether that be a large institution or a small family-type but still not family, supervised home for persons with special need. This is