

some of the senators who had not seen it to the extent they see it now, felt it was an urban problem and one restricted to certain racial minority and ethnic groups. Now people are starting to see that Nebraska has a problem of poverty that cuts across racial and ethnic lines and there is a greater degree of concern for those people. One was evidenced by changing the name of the Department of Welfare to the Department of Social Services so the people in the rural areas wouldn't be embarrassed when they had to seek assistance. So a program like this which is not doing anything to enhance the education, provide job skills or assist people in any way to become self-supportive is not, I think...

SENATOR LABEDZ: Time is up, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...a decent public policy so I hope the bill would not advance.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Pirsch, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the body, I think this has gotten off on the wrong track and I think Senator Wesely has raised a sector that isn't there. If you'd look in Section 3, the employable recipient shall mean any individual who is eighteen years of age or older, who is receiving county general assistance who is not engaged in full-time employment or satisfactorily participating in an approved program of vocational, rehabilitation, or job training, and who is not rendered unable to work by illness or significant and substantial mental or physical incapacitation. In other words, these are the people that have turned down job opportunities, who are not participating in vocational rehabilitation or job training and who are able to work. And, quite frankly, I think you can find dignity in all jobs and perhaps covering graffiti is one of the jobs that has the most dignity. Now there are people doing it and they have volunteered and I think Senator Chambers' reference to that is misleading. Senator Byars, could I give you the rest of my time?

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. In the testimony that we received in the Health and Human Services Committee hearing on this matter, I honestly felt that this was enabling legislation. This was something to start a program to allow the State of Nebraska to be able to try to get some dignified