

idea behind the 518 program, which has been a very successful program, was to take away a disincentive which existed in the job support program that would...which was created when these women would find jobs that didn't provide adequate health care benefits and adequate child care benefits. So the 518 program has been in effect, and it is now really incorporated into the federal child...or federal law. So we have had a couple of years track record on it and it has been, I am told, a very successful program. One of the problems that remain to be solved was the problem that exists when a woman finds work under the program and is not paid for 30 days after she finds work. So she is effectively cut off benefits at a date, and then she receives no pay in her job for 30 days after that. So the idea behind LB 1010 which now is incorporated into the committee amendments in 536 is to pay what really is a job incentive grant to these individuals who find work, to give them the security, the feeling of security that they are going to have some income during that first 30 days of employment. The cost, first of all, LB 1010 requested a payment equal to one month of ADC benefits. We amended that down in the committee to two weeks of ADC benefits. The total cost is \$281,000 and is, in my opinion, an extremely important part of the 518 program. If we don't remove that insecurity or feeling of insecurity, there is created or remains a great fairly significant obstacle to these women in their efforts to find and to keep employment. You have been sent around or are being sent around a handout, somewhere, which details the story of, I think, one woman in Douglas County who gave her testimonial about her experiences in trying to find work, and then finally went to college at Bellevue College, and is doing extremely well in Business Administration, and has been helped by these programs. And each year, we have a poverty seminar that we run in Douglas County, and we listen to these women and they give us their concerns and their problems, and from those poverty seminars, we fashioned LB 518 and also LB 1010, and this problem of finding that security for that first 30 days of work was identified to us at the last summer's poverty luncheon, poverty luncheon, as being a very, very significant problem. We believe, and I think the department believes, and certainly these mothers believe, that if they are given this boost, or this incentive, or job incentive grant, as I call it, that it is going to have a significant impact on both their desire and their ability to take care of their families and to find work. Because, obviously, the whole idea of welfare should be getting people off of welfare, not keeping them on the welfare rolls, and that was the idea behind the LB 518 program,