

January 28, 1991 LB 57

SENATOR NELSON: I don't think when we talk about group homes, I get it now. We're not talking about the same thing. Group homes is a home provided by...

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR NELSON: ...the region that maybe eight or ten live in. What I'm talking about is an individual is...lives in someone's private home or, there is a lady that lives in the trailer court, keeps a number of them and only one or two individuals in their home and then they are compensated for looking after them.

SENATOR WESELY: I don't think that would be affected by this.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Labeledz, followed by Senator Schmit. Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of LB 57. Sena+or Nelson just mentioned the fact that maybe one of these recipients of this \$45 a month spending money that they receive may go out and buy something that isn't really necessary and I don't know who to ask this question of, but if anyone can rise and tell me if a man or woman in prison how much money they are allowed per month to spend. Raising it to \$45 a month certainly isn't a huge amount and I, too, have a sister and a brother, two sisters, I'm sorry, in nursing homes and I can assure you that if they go down to the little concession store that they have at the nursing home and buy themselves something a little extra, it is something that they like to do and there are many, many times that sisters and brothers go to the nursing home and actually bring them things that they couldn't afford to buy otherwise because 35 to \$45 isn't that much for an elderly person or anyone receiving Medicaid for them to spend per month. And I'm certain that they don't go down there and buy anything that is unnecessary, and if they do go down and buy an ice cream sandwich or a...whatever, a Snicker bar, we certainly shouldn't deprive them of the fact that they, too, are human and I don't think they will be buying anything that isn't quite necessary for the enjoyment that they would have spending their own money and, like you say, there are hand creams and Kleenex and a lot of things that they buy that if their family don't provide them with that or their friends, then they do have to go down and buy it themselves. So I assure you that that much money per month