

is simply not the case. That is simply not the case. Out of what we know about the demographics of the homeless is that we are talking about a great deal of children. We heard on the last bill about the need to do something for kids in this state, and this bill is going to touch on it. Of those who are homeless, 58 percent cite domestic violence. Fifty-eight percent of the homeless cite domestic violence as their reason for being...for the cause of homelessness. It has nothing to do with any of the...of any of the stereotypical things we see. It has to do with the fact they have been forced out of...forced out of their homes by causes that are completely outside of their control. Domestic violence, as we know, is a problem that I know Senator Pirsch addressed in a bill a couple of years ago dealing with the protection orders. It is something that last year there tried to be some funding for it, for the domestic violence programs, but because of budget constraints, it was vetoed out of that bill. So there are attempts to try to take care of the symptoms, to try to attack the symptoms, but we have right now, or excuse me, to try to attack the disease itself, but we still have the symptoms occurring right now, and that is an enormous number of people living on the streets. One-third, one-third of the homeless in Nebraska are children. In Omaha, one-fifth of the homeless are children under the age of five. We continue to hear about individuals who are young families who are being made homeless, not necessarily the people who have nobody else they are depending on that depend on them, and that is simply not the case. It is families that are being made homeless. For those who are members of the committee who were at the committee hearing, there was testimony at the committee hearing from some people who had been homeless, who had been put out on the streets, and they came and they told the committee that with the assistance of some of the homeless shelters, they were able to get back on their feet, actually turn around and be able to do something so that they are no longer homeless. They have jobs, they are working, they are providing for their families, and that is ultimately what we want to get done, and that is, in fact,...

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...what these shelters do. Most of the shelters are...most of the shelters are primarily volunteer