

March 14, 1995

LB 658

And in some cases they have an illness that says they can't work. And I know cases like that, where they wanted to work and were ordered by the doctors not to. Again, it's the least we can do. I'd like to give the remainder of my time to Senator Beutler. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would only say in addition, members of the Legislature, that I think that this is a matter upon which reasonable people can differ, but I think it's a matter where we've come a long ways in terms of reducing benefits to these people already and that we ought to approach this with great caution. And that in a situation like this, if you're with me where the logic of this, what's proper, what will be most effective is somewhat in doubt, then I hope you will do like I intend to do, and if there is error to err on the side of compassion, to continue to give these people some assistance, to see how it works at this level, the level of the three months of assistance, and two, three years from now maybe Senator Pirsch will be back saying this doesn't work, and we can look at it again at that point in time. But for the moment I think we've gone far enough and that this represents a reasonable compromise. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. The question before you is the adoption of the Pedersen amendment to LB 658. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 5 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Pedersen's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Pedersen amendment is adopted. I raise the call. We return now to a discussion of LB 658. Seeing none, Senator Pirsch, do you wish to close?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. At this point I will not vote to advance LB 658. It has gone beyond what I had intended. And I didn't speak on the last amendment the second time, but I do want to tell you that the...the incentives that we have given to welfare have brought about the encouragement to those who do not get married, and I think it is...is proving more and more every day that that rhetoric, that political rhetoric that you've heard about family values indeed is