

or less an attitude change in an attempt to try to change the method in which we deal with the poor, not just giving assistance but giving them hope and assistance to move into a job and recognizing the changes that we adopted last year, and those were constructive changes. But if you're...if you're arguing for welfare reform because the cost is so great, it's a big part of our budget, the costs have gone up so much, you're wrong. That is not what the problem has been. The costs of this are minuscule in terms of the overall budget and there's been virtually no increase in the cost. What we're trying to change here is the net impact and make it a more positive impact on people. And one of the ways you do that is you recognize the standard of need...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...has dropped off too many people who are poor and denied them assistance, and raising the standard of need without raising the payment level will bring them in and provide some short-term assistance and, hopefully, get them back on their feet and out with better paying jobs in the future. So, again, I emphasize to you that I think there's good reason to do this and again I would answer any questions you may have about it. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I would point out to the members that there are 60 sophomores from throughout the State of Nebraska in the north balcony. They're here as part of the Nebraska Federation of Womens Clubs annual...11th annual sophomore pilgrimage to the State Capitol. Would appreciate it if you folks would stand and be recognized. The Chair would recognize Senator Crosby, followed by Senators Witek, Chambers, Jensen, Maurstad and Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I'm pleased to see some young people in the balcony too so they are aware of the social ills and the social problems that we face in the State of Nebraska today, and I'm looking forward to seeing them at noon. Senator McKenzie, thank you for that number on women because that's what I was emphasizing before that we're talking about women here. A woman can be physically abused by her husband and I'm not talking about some bum with no money, I'm talking about a woman who lived on Sheridan Boulevard here in Lincoln, is abused by her husband over a period of years. She takes it as long as she can and finally she decides this is