

she take the minimum wage job? It does not pay enough to meet her needs, so don't just look at the front end where you might very...to a very small extent increase the number of people eligible, look at the back end where you're dealing with people who already are receiving assistance, already receiving it. If we would raise the standard of need, she would remain eligible even if she got one of these minimum wage jobs. If she got the minimum wage job even and continued to receive assistance, it might be possible to get into a position where she is better able to improve her work condition, earn more money and then actually leave aid. In a lot of these instances, it may be the first job that a woman has held in a long time so she might have to start entry level at minimum wage. If, in starting at this entry level job, she loses all assistance, there is no basis for doing that. If we allow her to take that entry level job at minimum wage and not lose the cash benefit, there is a great incentive to go ahead and take this job, learn what there is to learn, maybe get a promotion on that job, although I don't know how it will happen, or, that failing, get some experience that will enable her to move to a different and better or higher paying job. So there is more to this idea of the standard of need than just allowing more people to become eligible. If this is to be a work...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...encouragement bill then we should do things in it that will encourage a person to go to work. Raising the standard of need does raise the amount of assistance that a woman receives. It goes to eligibility. And I think if we raise the standard of need, make it possible for a woman, because we're basically talking about women, to get a job and still receive assistance. Remember, if the job is a high-paying job, she's off anyway. We're talking about these marginal jobs that most of these women will receive, and to get one of them should not result in a loss of assistance. So rather than our asking to increase the payment at this time, although that's what I would like to see, we raise the standard of need, she can earn more money without losing eligibility for that pittance that we do offer by way of assistance in cash.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, I absolutely agree with Senator Chambers, and that is really the