

April 10, 1995

LB 455

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you know many people who have gone beyond high school?

SENATOR WITEK: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Has that additional education assisted them in obtaining employment that paid a higher wage than if they had just finished high school?

SENATOR WITEK: I think that's almost as different as the individuals who it pertains to.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Witek, and you may not accept statistics, but have you read statistics...

SENATOR WITEK: I have.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...which indicate that a person's ability to earn wages increases as the level of education increases?

SENATOR WITEK: My amendment doesn't discourage anyone from going to college, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I'm asking you, have you read statistics to that effect?

SENATOR WITEK: Yes, I have.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, what we are talking about in this bill is to try to make it possible for people to use whatever avenue is going to bring them to self-sufficiency. Remember this all the time, if you accept this bill, you have put a ceiling on people so that they can receive aid for only a certain period of time. It seems to me that within that period of time where we're cutting so many corners in other ways, if somebody has the gumption, the ambition and the ability, and the energy to go to school, we ought to be willing to extend that helping hand and not say that we're going to keep you ignorant so that there's a better likelihood that you will not be able to obtain gainful employment; we will have made sure that you're kicked off assistance, and now you'll be one of those people without education, without employment, without hope because the state has said...