

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I just rise in support of the amendment, Senator Hall's amendment. I just wanted to say a couple of things. First of all, when we did the 508 study, we found out that many of the counties provide different levels of service, and I guess based on, if the amendment does not pass, and if we don't take action on this, it means that we will probably chase a lot of people to Lancaster County because they provide the best service for indigent people of anybody I've been able...better than most of the counties, I should say. And so that's where we should probably send all of them where they can get the most return. And I guess the counties have the same responsibility as the state, and if they fail to meet the requirements that are set down out by the state, and that's what we are basically talking about, and the counties certainly have the same right of refusal that the county...that the state does, so I think it goes hand in hand, and if they do things that, in fact, disallow them from receiving services from the state, then certainly the counties could fall under the same refusal right because they, in fact, have set their own destiny. So, for that reason, I support the Hall amendment, and hope you would vote for it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator...thank you, Madam President, and members. Senator Chambers may think this is a great amendment, but I certainly hope it isn't approved. It's a fundamental change in the role of responsibility of counties in the state, and, let's face it, the welfare bill is a fundamental change in the role of the state in terms of providing for the poor in this state. So this, I guess it is the appropriate time and appropriate place, but this one is more significant than you may think. I was trying to recall, and I was going through it quickly, I didn't find it in the Constitution, but maybe Senator Vrtiska will remember, there is something about the first responsibility of the counties will be to care for the indigent, if I'm not mistaken. There was something somewhere I remember. But, well, he can respond, I do know that there is a section here that I will read, 68-132, the county board of each county shall be the overseer of the poor, shall be vested with the superintendents of the poor in such county. It shall be the duty of the county board to provide general assistance to all poor persons who meet the requirements and are eligible for