

appropriation to the local governments, or the Welfare Reform Act's unfunded mandates must be shelved. And what I am asking the Appropriations Committee to do with this one is to take a look at the whole package and tell us how much that's going to cost, or how much is going to go back to the counties and the cities. So I do appreciate Senator Hall bringing the amendment so we can talk about it because these are things that you must talk...must think about. The charitable providers are not going to be able to absorb the people that are going to be left out, and people say literally on the streets, and we know that happens, the family is living in its car, or at the People's City Mission in Lincoln, or at the shelter in Omaha. I know there is more than one there, The Open Door, or out in their car. We all know of this kind of thing happening, but before I close I want to...during the various discussions this afternoon, one of the things that has been said more than once is that welfare reform is supposed to bring to a halt people going on welfare as a way of life. Now I am talking about the State of Nebraska, I'm not talking about Iowa, or New York, or California, or wherever. I am talking about our state and this is a statistic from the Department of Social Services, and it is one we used last year...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...on 1224: Long term use of welfare is infrequent in Nebraska. The vast majority of ADC recipients receive assistance for less than 18 months before they obtain more regular employment or receive more child support. That's not true in all cases, and some of them come back on, and then go off again, but most of them, it is not a way of life. They do go off and they stay off, and the reason I don't like the two-year limit is that I still think the caseworker should have that flexibility at the end of the two years to be able to decide whether or not the family needs a little more time to become independent. So, thank you, and just keep those things in mind. Eventually, when we come to the bill and my amendments come up I will talk more about the charities and about the impact on subdivisions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. Again, I rise in support of the amendment. It clearly does spell out the issue of whether or not the intent of the bill is to push the