

because they don't have the dollar that it takes to pay the copay. It seems incredible. It seems as though nobody can be that poor, but you talk to them, you see them, you know them and you understand what their lives are like. They go from day to day trying to find 25 cents, trying to pick up a couple of cans to turn back in. And you say you can go down to the second-hand store, why can't they find a second-hand store? They can all go there, I go there, why can't they get their clothes? Well, I'll tell you why, they don't have two nickels to rub together, literally, two nickels to rub together and do not have clothing, food, shelter, those are kind of the basics and I...there is a reason why you include this and in those situations it seems again, if you can't get to the...what we're defining here is extreme hardship and if it's so bad for you, you can't even put clothes on your kids, to me, that is extreme hardship because you're right, there are options out there. If you can't get it done, you can't clothe your kids, it doesn't seem to me too much to say that's extreme hardship. I support the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Any further discussion on the Beutler amendment? Seeing none, Senator Beutler, would you like to close?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, again, all the amendment does is add the word clothing to fill out what we all, I think, recognize are the basic needs, food, clothing and shelter and it fills out that basic definition with respect to the definition of extreme hardship which is the last ditch of public assistance. And my only point was, you ought not to force a family to what is defined in statute as a child abuse situation, that is not providing necessary clothing in order to have them to meet...have them meet the requirements for support. If you count out the different waivers that are being put into law as a result of this particular bill, you're tightening up, in 29 significant ways, our welfare system and I think we haven't even gotten to those things yet. We really haven't gotten to the meat of the bill yet and so I think when we get here, we're all going to see that we are, indeed, tightening the welfare system in at least 29 different ways. And I think, as a balance to that, it's not a big thing to ask to include the word clothing in the definition of extreme hardship. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the