

ranked too high. Since there are 50 states, what is Nebraska doing being number 46? They ought to be fiftieth, but that is not a ranking of which we should be proud. I hope that you will think about this amendment because I'm offering it in seriousness and I'm saying, as clearly as I possibly can, that my intent is to increase the amount of assistance which people receive. If there is to be all the talk of family values, we should realize that there is a cost entailed. We know that there are perhaps as many reasons for people being in poverty as there are people in poverty. People are not impoverished because they are wicked and sinful, so I don't even have to argue that to this Legislature. I don't believe anybody wants to be in poverty. We are in a position without a huge expenditure of money, it will cost something to implement this amendment, but it is something which can be done and I think it should be done, especially since you're going to cut people off after two years. That is the limiting factor on everything and anything else that we undertake to do, so we should keep that in mind throughout all of these deliberations. The amendment is before you. I think that by now you've received a copy of the handout and I know you have because I've gotten my copy back. If you look at the state just above Nebraska, it is Mississippi. It is never good to be in the company of Mississippi for anything. There are other southern states which, before I saw this sheet, I would have presumed would have been paying a lesser rate of assistance than Nebraska. Georgia gives more than Nebraska. To me, Oklahoma is a southern state and you all have reasons other than being a southern state to hate them. You know you don't like Utah because they got Micron. They give more. Texas is a southern state, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida. Every southern state other than Mississippi and Virginia, Missouri was considered a border state, offer more by way of assistance to the poor people in their states. I hope that you will seriously consider this amendment. I hope you will adopt it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Senator Chambers, would you yield to just one question?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, and, in all seriousness, I may not have the answer, but ask me.