

piece of legislation and then you make sure that it has a number of controversial committee amendments, you could go eight hours, move to cloture and you would never have to open or never have to close. And, as Senator Jones said, yes, that's about what happened to him. But actually the other part that I had, as I've probably had about ten opening remarks and closing remarks, but those have all been written in my head on the interstate between the Capitol and home, and I don't know how many of us have done that, but I've done my best speeches in my head going up and down the interstate. And I would give my opening speech and I know the questions Senator Chambers would ask me, and I would give great answers, but now here we are on the floor of the Legislature and it's going to be a little more of a challenge, I'm sure. But last session we did pass phase one in LB 1224 and we made numerous provisions to radically change and redesign public assistance in Nebraska. As directed by that bill, I bring you LB 455 which contains the federal waivers necessary to begin implementation in Douglas and Sarpy counties and eventually throughout Nebraska; reform that replaces a one-size fits-all system, that fits very few clients, a system that keeps ADC women on public assist...on a public assistance merry-go-round, up and down, round and round, and often never forward. Why am I convinced we need radical reform? Let me describe situations under the current system that keep families trapped in a maze of regulations. Rather than any speeches on the philosophical merits of reform, I believe you're most interested in what does this bill do. The present system provides a child child care for a year after going to work. The reform plan provides two years of child care. Because child care is expensive, often newly employed parents can't afford the full cost, it takes more than 12 months before families can earn enough to handle the burden of child care. So I ask you, one year of child care or two years with a sliding fee scale, which system better serves families in a crisis? The present system, although reliable transportation is a necessity for getting to work, the value of the family automobile may prevent a person from assessing services. Value of one car is not counted in the re...as a resource in the reform plan. Again, which system better serves families in a crisis? The present system? Medical care available for up to one year after the person goes to work. The reform plan? There will be no charge for health coverage for the first six months regardless of income. A sliding scale payment for months 7 through 24, so 12 months or 24 months, which better serves families in crisis? The current system, one parent must be absent, incapacitated or unemployed