

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of the Bernard-Stevens amendment but I do want to clarify that I, like Senator Wesely, am opposed to the Crosby amendment. And I was wondering if I could ask Senator Crosby a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator, I...I seem to be getting a mixed signal on what...what we discussed a couple of days ago and what some of your comments are this morning relative to in the first section of your Section 5, it indicates that this act mandates that thousands of children and families will lose their eligibility, and then your handout also indicates an even more specific number that we're looking at estimated over 20,000 children are going to be directly cut off or limited by this act. And it appears...and the mixed message that I'm getting that maybe you can help me with is that the other day we did some things that people, I think, felt we were expanding, we were looking at serving more and now you're indicating that this act is going to cut off people. So I'm...I'm confused as to whether this act is going to cost us more, such as the fiscal note indicates, because we're going to be treating more, or whether it's going to cost us less because this act is going to cause so many people to lose their benefits.

SENATOR CROSBY: It's going to cost us more, period, I'm quite sure, Dave. And I base that on the fact that it's going to cost more to deliver the services, the in-focus system is going to cost a lot. They never think about the computer systems and all the things that DSS has to have. But, from...to answer directly your question about my particular...the study and the impact on the nonprofit agencies, those numbers of 20,000 come from people who, I said earlier, are in the business, they know who the people are, they know how many are there. If they're cut off after two years and have no recourse and have no resources, then that could very easily be 20,000 children by 1999.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Well, then I get really troubled then if we're going to serve fewer people and it's going to cost us more, it seems like we're going in the wrong direction so, hopefully, the debate over the next couple days on this will be