

committee amendments. I think we have enough on our hands with just the green copy of the bill. And to put in amendments like this where we have no idea how much it's going to cost and no idea even how many people are involved and we're changing it here on when we want to get the report. And, to me, it just seems like...and I know Senator Crosby is very concerned about the impact of welfare reform but really let's be honest. These people aren't going to have a two-year time period as soon as the bill passes anyway. They could go years before they sign a self-sufficiency contract. That's what I was told by Bob Armstrong when we were talking about this. It's not like everybody is going to sign a self-sufficiency contract the first day this bill is passed and then everybody who is on welfare will be off in two years. I mean, and then plus two years off and then two years after that they have child care and medical. So we're talking years into the future for these people. It's not like we're kicking them off the welfare roll and out into the streets, and that's what all this intent language of this amendment says. And, you know, it makes it sound like anybody who wants welfare reform is some kind of, you know, Simon Legree that just wants to, you know, kick them off into the cold and to heck with them. And I don't think that's what we were discussing with the welfare reform in the committee. I don't think that's what the country is discussing. They're simply asking to find a balance between what we can do for people...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...and what the rest of us can afford to do for people. That's all we're doing. So, I guess, you know, I don't...I guess I object to the amount of time and I know we're not supposed to do that, and it's fine if you want to try to get this in a shape to pass, but it will take some period of time to pass something like this. And I have an amendment to put taxpayers who are not involved, except for their money is involved, in welfare reform on this task force because I think those are the people that we need to be hearing from also and need to be included in some of these reforms that you're considering. So I just hope we decide that the Bernard-Stevens amendment should be voted down and the Crosby amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Crosby, to speak to the Bernard-Stevens amendment.