

keep talking about how good the bill is and how balanced it is and mentions that a person is not automatically put off cash assistance at the end of two years even if they refuse a job. What Senator Beutler did not mention is that there is an appeal process, a mediation process and a decision will be made by a worker that this person is off, and even if the decision is wrong, it's going to take an amount of time to get it rectified. What is the mother to do between the time the inappropriate decision was made and the time that it's overturned, if it ever is. That's not of any great concern to Senator Beutler. It's not of great concern to Senator Bohlke. It's not of great concern to Senator Day. It's not of great concern to any of those who support capping this assistance in the way that is being discussed. Senator Dierks is offering a rational, reasonable amendment. You all talk about how compassionate Nebraskans are when you're in one of those bills where you're going to give away the state to a corporation. That's when you all talk about how compassionate Nebraska is. Well, now we have children, children in being, children who, by definition, need help. As far as Senator Beutler's attempt to reassure you by saying available job means it must pay at least as much as the cash being received, you should remember that the cash being received now, Senator Beutler, does not bring a woman up to what's called the standard of need, and that's the minimum level at which a decent life...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...can be maintained. So what Senator Beutler is finding acceptable to him is to say if she's scraping along impoverished with this 400 and something dollars a month in aid, if somebody offers her a job making the same amount, let her scrape along with that money. But he doesn't talk about transportation costs. He doesn't talk about the other expenses that go along with having a job, purchasing clothing, shoes, having her hair done and all the other things that people teach individuals when you go for a job you have to do. So the assurances that Senator Beutler offered are like gossamer. They have no real substance. They are the kind of things to salve over a bad conscience but the consciences are not being nagged enough to do the right thing. I support Senator Dierks' amendment.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Lindsay.