

saving the money, because I think the amount of money we're going to be saving, it's the kind of money that we spend in an afternoon on proposals with very little debate. I would urge that this amendment be adopted, that we look clearly at the reasoning behind the policy and are you convinced that there is a legitimate, strong rationale for changing this portion. And I'm not talking about the bill as a whole. I'm talking about this portion, talking about the family cap. Is there a strong rational or even a rational reason other than the savings of money that would support that policy? I don't think there is and I hope, after looking at it, that you don't think there is.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Seeing no other lights, Senator Dierks, you are recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I thank you very much for your attention and for the discussion because I think it's essential for us to know these things and have them on the record. We may be looking at this again years to come and just see exactly what we've said and what we've predicted and how it's turned out. I want to tell you again that the fiscal note on this bill will not change as a result of this amendment being adopted. The fiscal note will remain the same. The figures are too difficult to come up with. They can't be accurate and at the most, we're talking about \$50,000 the first year in Omaha, and \$100,000 the second year statewide, and these numbers are dropping every year. So we are not being irresponsible by adopting this amendment because it will not change the fiscal note. The second thing I want you to remember is that these mothers on welfare are destitute. I don't think that we do this to our citizens. I don't think Nebraskans do this to their citizens to make it more difficult for these people to survive and to make it more difficult for the children based on something that the mother or father has done. And I would just urge that you use this amendment to help these youngsters, these babies that come to these families after ten months on the program and help their families to survive this critical time in their lives. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. You've heard the close. The question is the adoption of the Dierks amendment to LB 455. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Dierks, for what purpose do you rise?