

(t). That is in the green copy. The amendment is changed to (g). On line 3, the section I'm talking about is a cash out of food stamps. Cash out eliminates the trafficking since participants are given cash instead of coupons, food coupons, that is. But there is no guarantee that the recipients will not abuse the program by using their benefits for nonfood purchases. Cash-out programs provide no method for determining if food assistance benefits are used to purchase food items. Cash out simply sends the message that recipients can use the money with no restrictions. As a grocer, this would probably be the simplest way to use payments under the federal program which allows...that is run by the Department of Agriculture, that's where they come from, it would be much easier for retail merchants to use cash. But knowing what I do about food stamps, it would be a disaster. By issuing cash instead of food stamps, we would be opening Pandora's box. The intent of the food stamp program is to ensure that people will not go hungry. Believe me, if we change that system to cash, there will be...there will be children going hungry, and after all this is really what it's all about is providing food to those needy families. They will be using the cash to buy other items and we all know what's in a grocery store anymore. It doesn't only mean the grocery store, they can go anywhere with this cash. And I know the temptation will be there, the temptation will be there to use that cash for other means rather than...rather than life-sustaining food. What I'm afraid of, there are a lot of well...well-meaning, well-meaning participants on this program. They follow the directions that are given to them by the food stamp program. They follow them to the letter of the law. They don't try to buy anything else with those food stamps. But what would happen if you gave these recipients, the people that we're trying to help, if we gave them cash, I know just what would happen. They will start down the grocery aisle, right now you can't buy any so-called drugs, over the counter drugs, with food stamps, aspirin, so on, and things like that, paper products, dog food, but if they have the cash in hand, they're going to see the paper towels in the paper section in the grocery store and they're going to say, ah, one time I'm going to...I'm going to use these paper towels, we need those paper towels. Bingo, there you go. The next time, well, the darn dog is hungry, nobody will care if I just use \$2.98 for a five-pound bag of dog food. I will go ahead and get it for old Rover. And I will guarantee you one thing, within one week, after they receive the cash payments, they're going to be knocking on the door, knocking on the door of the food assistance people, the food