

banks, and so on. It's going to put a strain on them. It's going to put a strain on Salvation Armies. It's going to put another strain on the county office where they go to pick up their food stamps. They're going to be coming in there, I'm sorry, but I ran out of money. Sure, they ran out of money because they are not...you talk about being responsible, trying to teach these people to be responsible, well, if they can't be responsible with food stamps, how in the world are they going to be responsible with cash? Go out in your district. Go out here on the street in Lincoln and run yourself a little poll and see what people say when you bring this up to them. Just ask them. If you get 10 percent of the people to say that they think it's a good idea, you will be hitting a very vulnerable spot, I'll guarantee you that. This has been tried. Folks, this has been tried in other states, been tried in other states and it really hasn't worked. The food...I don't know how they figure this out but there are some bright minds in this world, I guess, they figure out what has happened in the grocery market where the edible food products have declined, in some cases, up to 20 percent. We say that grocers will be able to accept other...cash for anything, well, how do we know? How do we know this? It's not going to help. Cashing out food benefits will completely sever the link between benefits of the food purchase and is likely to result in a decrease in the amount of benefits participants use for food, and I just know it will happen. So if, my fellow senators, if we are sincere, if you're sincere about helping the underprivileged, the family that's down on their luck, to maintain the nutritional values that comes from wholesome food, which these food stamps can buy at this particular time, I'm not saying there is not abuse among the food stamps, but at least, at least, ladies and gentlemen, there is a paper trail that can be followed with food stamps. You tell me a paper trail that can be followed with cash. I would like to find it. Those food stamps were established, they were established for one purpose and one purpose only. They're being abused but I will tell you that the cash will be abused a heck of a lot more. So I just...when you vote on this amendment just keep it in mind. Keep it in mind who you're really trying to protect here. You're trying to protect the downtrodden family, the family that's down on their luck and those poor kids in that family. At least this way they've got a chance to get some food. Let me tell you it isn't going to happen if you go to cash. It just isn't going to happen. Again, I say, as a grocer, I would love to see the cash in there. I wouldn't have to fill out any more deposit slips for food stamps. I wouldn't