

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Call the question.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Do I see five hands? The Chair does now see five hands. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 5 ayes, 15 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Debate does not cease. The Chair recognizes Senator Day.

SENATOR DAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I rise in opposition to Senator Janssen's amendment. I think that the cashing out of food stamps is something that we need to do. I think we need to remember we are doing this only in the area where we have the pilot program going, only these women that are on AFDC who sign contracts and will be working with the social worker and working closer with them. And I still have a real hard time with some of the discussion on the floor because it sounds like we assume all women on ADC are going to be going out and buying beer and buying cigarettes and, heaven forbid, they might even buy some paper towels with this money that they're getting, and I think we have to have higher expectations. And I do have higher expectations. They may need help with budgeting. I know I certainly did when I first started out, and there were many times I should have not spent what I spent money on, as I think most of us can do. I think the way we are pursuing this and with the food stamps it is demeaning to these women, and I think they're capable of handling this cash and they're capable of budgeting their own money. I also think there is a consideration that this is something we may see come down in the form of block grants from the federal government. And I would much rather have our system in place and have it set up and see how we work it and what we can do in this type of a pilot project before we are told what we have to do and that we have to go this way. I would rise and just urge you all to oppose this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Day. Senator Bohlske.