

don't support the bill. I'm really open to listening to a good debate and discussion and what I think that has been presented to you is the waiver that the federal government has presented to Nebraska and see your reaction to it and how we should move or if we should move in that direction. There are ramifications to any of the proposals before you on this issue. I would say that the food stamps that we use now happen to be a broken system. You can all know those abuses that happen. I don't think it works very well for the women who really need assistance and help and you can hear the stories of how they're treated in the grocery line with those children; it also doesn't work very well for those who choose to abuse the system. They can very easily turn it into cash and so it seems to me that we presently...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...have a system that doesn't work very well. But if we are not ready to move away from that, if we think that cash will not be a better way, if we aren't ready to make the financial commitment to move towards the debit card, and I don't think we are as a state, then I guess we stay with the status quo. And if that's how people are thinking I would say that that is not reform, that's rejecting reform. But if that's what we want to do, if we think that the system works so well that we should keep food stamps, that it serves the people and it serves the taxpayers and it's the best system we can have in place, then I suggest we support the Janssen amendment. If you think it's not a good system then I think you have two other options and something to decide. And as I said, I'm waiting and listening to the rest of the debate, and I think it's time for people to stand up and say...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...how they feel on this issue.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Before we continue with Senator Witek, I'd like to take time, in the north balcony, guests of Senator Fisher are 23 fourth graders from Stolley Park School in Grand Island. To those students that are here, welcome to the Legislature. And also for those students, what we are doing is first round debate on the welfare reform bill, LB 455. Senator Witek.