

first note of a song that I would like to see us compose, but I hope we will at least grant this.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I just want to comment in general relative to some of the statements that Senator Chambers has made and he has a number of very meaningful things to share with the body relative to this particular general issue, but I just wanted to indicate in general that this budget does more for those that cannot help themselves than any budget that the State of Nebraska has ever developed. We're doing more in the area of help for the disabled. We're doing more for those that are less fortunate and I just want to, in a very overall, general sense, indicate that I believe that the budget represents the Legislature doing something very substantial for those that can't do it for themselves and those that have looked at the budget in care know the areas where there have been dramatic increases in that support and just wanted to make that comment at this stage of the debate so that this budget doesn't get characterized in some of the tones that have been up to this point. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Fisher.

SENATOR FISHER: Madam...or Mr. Speaker, members, I rise in support of this amendment. I just checked my district and we have 60 clients that depend on this and it's a one-on-one service. They do everything from arranging for driving to take him for their prescriptions, for home care and various other subjects, and if these people do not receive this money, which happens to be, in my opinion, a small token amount, but if we didn't and we had to pay it, it could be up to \$72,000 per year, per person for these individuals, so this represents a substantial savings and I hope that you will vote for the amendment and advance it to the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens to close.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Maurstad and I have had a brief discussion today on some of the difficulties that...that were experienced in Beatrice and the only thing I can say is on that one I agree with him wholeheartedly that that was not a good thing to happen, but I would also argue of the fallacy that, if I