

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I'm going to say about three quick things. I'm listening very carefully to this particular part of the section, of the amendment I'm not sure how I'm going to vote yet, but I do have feelings about the day care because, as I've said before, it's a given and if these young women are going to work and try to get off welfare we do need to have the children taken care of. The second thing is I still don't like LB 455 no matter what amendments we make to it. Welfare reform is a misnomer. It's not going to reform. The system is still going to be there. These people are still going to have to be served. There is going to be no big money savings because if they go on and then come back on and go off and so on there's not, but the big point I want to make right now early in the day is this. Social service blew its own case two weeks ago because one of the big things I don't like about this bill is we are not giving the caseworkers the leeway. We're going to hold this young woman to two years and if she's not ready to go off, too bad. Two weeks ago it came to light that an exception had been made by the director herself for the foster family. Now this has nothing to do with Sonny Foster's problems. I'm not talking about that. What I am talking about the director made a decision to help that family so the children didn't have to go into a foster care situation, probably was a good decision, but you see what she did? The ends, the end she was trying to get to justified and warranted the decision she made. So all I'm...what I'm saying about this bill as a whole, every family should have that same concern and care. Every family should be looked at as an individual case and is the young woman getting to where she can survive? Is she getting her education? That and the nine month cap are the two things about this bill in particular that I do not like. And at the end, even if we have done some things that might be good or bad, I still doubt very much that I'll vote for the bill. So I'll be saying some things later in the day. Senator Maurstad, if you'd like a little time you may have whatever I have left.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR CROSBY: I gave my time to Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Sorry, Senator Maurstad. The rest of the time has been yielded to you.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: How much time is that?