

Senator Chambers' amendment. As I said, perhaps there's some other ground that we can get together on but mandating the 75 percent level is not one that I can support.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment. In essence what Senator Wehrbein is trying to do is put 0 to 75 percent on the table. Obviously Senator Chambers only has 75 to 100 percent on the table so there's considerable difference. I agree with Senator Hall that I certainly don't believe that we have people receiving public assistance that just don't want to work as a general statement. I disagree with him that the chief obstacle though is child care, I think that this is certainly one of the concerns in the mix. I think the chief obstacle to most individuals is obtaining the skills necessary to get gainful employment and so I think we need to continue to work in that direction. So I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment. I do believe that the Legislature has to have the responsibility for funding this program, make those decisions on as a part of our budget process. This obviously goes in the other direction from that.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Senator, I'd like to give my time to Senator Robak.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just have a question for perhaps Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wehrbein, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein, this welfare reform bill is only for counties with population of more than 35,000 residents. That excludes my entire district so I'm wondering this division nine that we're doing now, day care providers, does that only include those in those counties of 35,000 or would it adversely affect those living in my district?