

Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in opposition to the amendment. First off, I was just checking with the department, and their indication is that their...this sort of proposal wouldn't be waived. It...and how you administer it, how you would go forward, it's a nice attempt on the part of Senator Lindsay to make an alternative. But, first off, I don't think we could get it waived. And second off, even if we did, administration of it would be a problem how you track it and work through it. So in my view this is a nice but not realistic proposal. Let me go back to that close vote that we had 23 votes on. Let me reiterate for you once again why I think that a family cap is not unreasonable. I understand the political pressures that you're under to support it, but let me tell you there's another side to the coin. When you go back home and you talk to folks, one of the things that they're most upset about is the welfare system, that once you're on the system, rewards of the additional cash payment for additional children, that is maybe the one sticking point that most upsets people about this system. And that is one thing that I think needs to be addressed through a family cap. Because what it does, or the way we handle it, you won't get the additional cash, that's true, that extra \$71 a month. But the food stamps go up, the child care is still available, you've got the medical care that's available, you've got other assistance that's possible. All you do with a family cap is say no cash. But in that small step, in my view, now some people think it's this huge step and harmful action against the child. Well, you keep forgetting that there's all kinds of additional assistance that comes with the additional child. The child is taken care of in terms of its need for food and its need for medical care and some other things as well. All that happens is the cash doesn't come forward. And it seems to me lost in all that discussion is that fact, that we're not wiping out everything that goes to that additional child, just the cash side of it. And in my view that's not a mistake, that is something we need to look at. This doesn't occur until after the individual has signed a contract, they know full well the situation, they understand the consequences that that's what the contract will include because the law calls for it. You have an additional child after...ten months after being on the system, you're not going to get the additional cash, but you will get the other things, you understand that, okay. Well, the decision is made, child is born, everybody understands. But in the real world that we live