

not on welfare forever. Now my amendment already, in 455, the family sanction law was changed to where I think it's one month, Senator Wesely, the first time, one sanction, they're off for a month, another, it's like three strikes and you're out. I mean, that's what I don't like about that word "sanction" even, you see, because it makes them...it makes them sound like criminals. They haven't lived up to this contract so we're going to take you off welfare, you're not going to get anymore payments and just remember the children are the ones that suffer. So if you will look at the sheet that I handed out, it was because the waiver that was granted by Donna Shalala at the federal level, Nebraska are going to be sanctioning all the families rather than using the payee approach that's outlined on this handout. And so I think we...it's just essential that we put this into 455 so that won't happen in Nebraska. And Social Services, the other thing that I dislike so much about this, and when I read through there are some good things here, we're helping with child care when there's a transition from welfare off of welfare, from being on welfare to self-sufficiency. We're helping with transitional health care for 24 months after the termination and so. All those things are good, but the children are going to suffer if, for some reason, Social Services thinks the mother is not living up to the contract and they take the money away, then what happens to the children. I know all kinds of stories I could make up as to what might happen to them. I'm not going to do that because all those things are hypothetical and each case is different and that's why the caseworkers need leeway, and that's why I want this amendment, because I think when...if somebody doesn't live up to the contract and the mother is taken off, the money has got to follow that child one way or the other. They must find a payee and see to it that the child has the benefit of the money. That's all I'm asking. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Bohlke, on the Crosby amendment.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President, and members, Senator Crosby, when you said what's going to happen to the children, that's an interesting point that I don't think has been made on this that when the sanctions take place and they would sanction the family the amount of money that is taken away from what is considered their income, and so what happens is that they get more food stamps. And so it remains a sanction but not quite as severe as what we're saying, because, indeed, the food stamps