

to Senator Wesely.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Senator Bohlke. This came after we had a briefing in the Health and Human Services Committee. As...keep in mind what we set up last year was when you came into the system you had basically two options. You could keep the current level of ADC payment and...and then you would have the current lower disregard, that's 40 percent. But we wanted to set up an incentive so somebody could come in and work and keep more of their money. So that was the...we raised the disregard to 60 percent but we also lowered the cash payment on that so that you could...you actually came out ahead. If you worked, you would keep more money and you came out ahead and so there was an incentive to work, but we held harmless individuals that didn't want to make that choice. The problem with the 60 percent disregard is we also dropped under the current law the hundred dollar disregard that went along with the 40 percent disregard that we now have and so, in fact, from the figures we got at the meeting that we had for those that are earning a lower amount they actually made less money on that deal. There's less of an incentive to go out to work. As you earn more money then the 60 percent became valuable and then you came out ahead. So what we decided was we needed a kind of a hold-harmless here because what we want are for people to choose this option and to work and to have...retain more of those earnings so they get out there and get a job on...on the system and get used to it and get the experience and then move off of the system. But the way this was set up it actually penalized people and not helped them until they earned a certain amount of money. So we put back in the hundred dollars and that took care of that problem and I would encourage your support for it. All it is is to keep in line with what we were trying to do. The other thing I want to mention is the department came back and were supportive of this. Administratively, it's easier to administer it with the hundred dollar disregard than it is without. The smaller amounts of money become hard to track and it's really kind of a waste of time administratively, so I think it's advantageous from that end, it will have some administrative savings. So I would ask support for the amendment. Be happy to answer questions.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Your light is on next. I assume that that served your purposes. Senator