

them. Perhaps they can beg on the streets. Perhaps they can steal. Perhaps, if it's a woman, she can turn to prostitution. For those of you who have never been down on your luck, you tend not to believe that people can face such dire and extreme circumstances but it is an increasingly usual thing for people in this society. This amendment that I'm offering would merely return us to where we were before the language that I'm trying to strike was adopted. The language currently in the law is very cruel, it's very hard-hearted, and it's going to hurt all of those children that we have been talking about up to this point. We have talked about the state and its failure to do those things which it ought to do. Now we are saying, since the state is going to give the back of the hand to the poor, the counties should do the same thing. The counties have a different role and function than that of the state. They have this obligation and responsibility to assist the poor. There is language in the section to which Senator Hall's amendment had been added which talks about the duty of the county to the persons who are poor. I hope that you will support this amendment, strike the language that Senator Hall put in and restore the status quo that existed prior to his amendment. One of the reasons some people may have supported the state doing as it's doing with this LB 455 is because there was a safety net. That is now being taken away, and it is difficult for me to believe that people who have stood on this floor from time to time and talked about how much Nebraskans care for each other, what kind of compassion is in this state, would agree to retain language which takes away the last shred of hope that a person could have who has every other door closed. Because our numbers are short, I'm going to ask at this point for a call of the house and, Madam President, how much time do I have left?

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Two and a half minutes, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I will ask for the call of the house and then I'll finish, if I have any time.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: There's been a request for a call of the house. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 0 nays to go under call.