

termination of a benefits period", so that what happens is the individual is in charge of their own destiny. If they do something that makes them ineligible at the state level, they then can't run to the county and say, oh, pick up my general assistance, or, oh, pick up my medical assistance. We take out the provision that deals with the termination of benefit periods. Frankly, it's a real easy amendment for me to support. I didn't go ask the county what they think about it, frankly. I did talk to Senator Vrtiska who was opposed to the substitution a little earlier. He said that he feels he can live with that, that there are...there are two years, as Senator Wesely pointed out, before, because of the termination periods, that counties can take a look at what the impact has been. They will have time to come back here and raise that issue at another date. Between now and then if there are individuals who don't play by our rules, they will still be ineligible at the county level. I believe that really is the heart of what we wanted to get at with regard to this issue and if the counties feel otherwise, with the adoption of this amendment, they can come back next year and take a look at changing it. With that, I would yield the balance of any time I have to Senator Chambers or Senator Wesely.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely, you have six and a half minutes.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. I want to thank Senator Hall because I was very concerned about this amendment. I understand why the counties did this but all along we've talked about if somebody goes in and they don't follow the contract and they screw up and they get cut off, should they have the right to go to the counties. And I have to agree. If it's somebody on their own and by their own action or inaction, I have a hard time forcing them on the counties. In a way, it's sort of like the kid who murders his parents and throws himself at the mercy of the court because he's an orphan. It's not quite the way it should work. But the other part of it that we never really talked much about and I mentioned earlier is that due to termination of benefits somebody can do everything right, follow all the rules and then for the rest of their lives, under this, there is no...any cutoff on this, they are ineligible, absolutely, from the counties with no choice, no option, no discretion, and I don't think that was what was intended. I think we're after the guy that causes the problem themselves and that's...with this amendment we focus in on that. So I very