

January 23, 1996 LB 592

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. Thank you. I'd find the amendment much more suitable if we'd remove the drivers license revocation also. I have difficulty with that provision, especially for rural Nebraskans, because without the ability to get to work in my district there's no way they can get money enough to pay child support. I'd like to tell you a little story. A good friend of mine, who was actually my attorney through most of our younger years, who became a district court judge, the first time one of these child support/nonsupport payment deals came to his court he told the man he was going to go to jail. And so on the way out of the courtroom the guy said, well, I've got the money in hand, and he took it out of his pocket and paid cash. And the word was out, and that was the end of child support problems in our area. And I still think that can happen today if the courts will just take that initiative. I think it's up to them to do it, I think we have that ability. So I have difficulty with this whole concept of forcing drivers licenses or anybody else's licenses for child support. I will support this amendment but quite likely not the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Crosby, to speak to the Beutler amendment to the Witek amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I just have a couple of questions. And I want to be sure on this legislation because we all recognize the problems. But I want to be sure that we're solving the problem and not compounding it. This does concern me when we start putting in all kinds of things that are going to make it harder for people to make a living. That really does...and I think even in Lincoln and Omaha most people depend on their cars to get to work. I was told at a meeting the other night that the people who are not paying are a low percentage, and that those people are the ones who...the greater percentage of those who do not pay are people who can't pay, they don't have the money, and perhaps the divorce settlements were unrealistic. Be that as it may, I want to ask a question. Senator Witek, you used the percentage 20 percent. Did you mean 20 percent were not paying or were paying?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: According to the information that was put out by