

please return to their seats? Will all unauthorized persons please leave the floor, the house is under call. Senators, please check in. We are accepting call-in votes. The question before the body is the question to cease debate on the Wesely amendment to the Beutler amendment to LB 1322. Cease debate, we are accepting call-in votes. Senator Bernard-Stevens, please check in. Senator Bohlke, Senator Beutler, Senator McKenzie, Senator Lindsay, Senator Pirsch, Senator Preister, Senator Robak, Senator Coordsen, Senator Cudaback, Senator Schellpeper, Senator Schrock, Senator Hudkins. Senator Schellpeper, Senator Withem, Senator Kristensen, Senator Landis.

CLERK: Senator Janssen voting yes. Senator Bohlke voting yes. Senator Landis voting yes.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Debate ceases. The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely to close.

SENATOR WESELY: Madam President, and members, what I am offering here is an attempt to compromise with Senator Beutler to address his concerns. We did not have a definition of low income or very low income in the bill. We do address that in the bill and target that as where we are trying to provide assistance. We don't define it because the thinking was that in the process of rules and regulations, the definition would be adopted, but responding to Senator Beutler's concerns about defining in statute, Senator Schimek and I are agreeable to that. The problem is if you accept the Beutler amendment as presented, it will be so restrictive it will make difficult the effort to put together packages of assistance to communities to address their housing concerns. So in discussing this with those who are interested in the legislation, representing the various groups that are concerned about housing needs in the state of Nebraska, what we are offering is this effort to, yes, target very low income as Senator Beutler does, designating very low income as those 150 percent of poverty or below, and then allowing for low income being the standard of 80 percent of median family income, so they are still 20 percent below average income, and...but so they are still low income but they are not very low income, which is the definition used by Senator