

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, the choice before you is simply this, you can adopt the amendment, in which case your definition of low income and the focus of the bill will be with respect to folks who are at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty guideline. And I think that's a reasonable standard. If it's over simple in any way, certainly the proponents of the bill should be prepared to tell us so and to make further refinements. But if you do not adopt the amendment, then you're back to the green copy of the bill which has no definition of either low income or of very low income, and therefore I suggest to you a measure of flexibility and a latitude that is inappropriate for what is essentially going to be a government subsidy program. So I would ask your support in limiting the applicability of the bill to those groups of people who are most in need and if later we can afford to do better, we can always expand the program. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. The question before the body is the adoption of the Beutler amendment to LB 1322. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 15 nays, Madam President, on the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Beutler amendment fails. Is there any further discussion on...Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend, AM3454. (See page 1010 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler to open on his amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Clerk, could you read the amendment?

CLERK: Senator, on page 3, line 9, after the word "fund" insert "and to recommend a plan to coordinate low-income housing efforts throughout the state". Page 3, line 9.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, this amendment is...is fairly simple. Basically, under the bill a committee is formed for the purpose of addressing...it says, "issues related to the operation of the fund." And one of the issues that is not identified and which I thought would be