

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 16, 1999 LB 179

further discussion on page two of the committee amendments, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Lieutenant Governor Maurstad, members of the Legislature, just a couple quick remarks. First of all, just so you have clearly in mind, if you reject this portion of the committee amendments you will reduce our overall costs by about \$5 million, which would be helpful in the end. And I also wanted to point out that if you reject this particular portion of the committee amendments you're not going to be taking away anything that anybody already has. You're not taking anything away. In fact, the totality of what you will have done today will have been to have added significant...significantly to all who currently benefit under the program. But there are some expanding definitions in this portion of the committee amendments and that expanding definition, for example, of disability is something we would all like to do. But I think we have to be cautious and cognizant of the fact that, bottom line on these kinds of things, we should be looking at needs and what the needs are for each and every individual regardless of their social status or condition in life or even their physical condition insofar as that condition does not reflect upon their ability to earn income, for example. And when you start putting provisions in here that are not reflective of needs then, for myself at least, philosophically, we're going beyond what government should be doing in the first place. So one portion of this committee amendments, at least for me, suggests that we probably should be taking a very close look at expanding that definition. In any event, to simply repeat, you're not taking anything away from anybody by rejecting this portion of the committee amendments, that is anything that they already have. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. For further discussion, Senator Chris Peterson.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, I rise in support of this section of the committee amendments, and I think we've had, obviously, good discussion on this. I think we're all very aware of the dollars that are available and the needs that are available and that are always out there. The question has come up what do we want to do with