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LB 518, 594

minimum standard of \$500 or the maximum standard of \$500, depending upon how you look at it, would in course provide that opportunity for the people on SSI and SSDI. What happens is simple. Once they are, once they can, in fact, provide for themselves and earn incomes that help take care of themselves and others, the programs such as food stamps and subsidized housing, utility assistance programs and others are affected and also apply and can affect how they feel about themselves and that dignity that goes along with taking care of yourself. I appreciate very much the fact that Senator Jensen and the Health and Human Services Committee would allow me to address you and suggest that LB 518 be an amendment and become part of 594. I'll try to answer any questions you might have.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the Lynch amendment. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I just wanted to make a few comments. I don't know how many of you have gone to a...oh, a fast food operation and you see some individuals working there, and certainly it's identifiable that there is a disability there. I have found these people to be pleasant, hardworking. They are very prompt. I've talked to some of the operators and some of the managers, and one of the concerns is they can only work so much or they'll lose certainly their Medicaid funds that they get. And sometimes they're on medicines, sometimes there are other things that if they lose those it would be a tremendous disservice, not only to them, but also to society as a whole. There are some firms around the state, Lozier Corporation hires individuals with disability and really help them out a lot but one of the things then, too, if they have to leave or they can't work, certainly work gives a great deal of satisfaction to individuals, and so in that respect, it gives these people a sense of well being, a sense of being part of society. And so when this came before the committee, the committee certainly felt that this was a admirable goal to allow these people to work longer hours, to allow them to participate in society, and certainly if they're working, I think it's a better health situation for them as well as the rest of society. We're not talking about a large number of individuals here, but those that would like to work can work. It's the best therapy I think that dollars can buy, and