

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Either on my close or some other time, I will proceed, but I don't want to take all of your time on this.

SENATOR BROWN: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you for as far as we were able to go on it.

SENATOR BROWN: In response to the information about the 60 percent collection fee, I am very pleased that Nebraska is at 60 percent. I worry about the other 40 percent, but I think we have to remember how we got to where we are. We got there by entering into an agreement and a partnership with the federal government to improve our child support collections that they are paying 66 percent of the cost of. And we need to...to really examine what we are willing to do if...if we're willing to turn our back on the assistance that the federal government has been providing us in child support collection. Are we going to find \$15 million in cuts at the state level and continue to send the dollars to the county level for the collection, disbursement and enforcement of child support, which will not change under LB 637? The enforcement part of it will not change. They will still continue to get the money, the almost \$5 million that they have been getting. Or are we going to require that the counties pay the entire cost of it? And so that's...and I think that that is a question that we need to ask ourselves as we decide how we're going to vote on this bracket motion. Are we willing to come up with \$15 million at the state level? Are we going to require that the counties continue to do the work without receiving the 66 percent that they have been getting in assistance from the federal government that has allowed us to get to the 60 percent collection fee? And I will keep reminding you and I will say it over and over and over again, 1991, 1991, eight years ago, \$30 million in collections; 1999, \$120 million in collections, four times as much as in 1991. So something has been working and I would say what has been working is the partnership that we have with the federal government to do child support collection. And this is just one more piece, and part of the reason that this piece is necessary is because we are a much more mobile society...