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SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Chambers, on the Foley amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator Foley a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Foley, would you respond?

SENATOR FOLEY: Yes, be happy to.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Foley, you made it clear why you're taking the approach that you are, that there was a federal bill some years ago enacted, and you're patterning yours after that. But since this is, as you define it and describe it, a preference, why should blind people, or those who are legally blind, be given a preference over every other type of person who may be handicapped?

SENATOR FOLEY: That's a fair question, Senator. There is...there's been a long and successful history at the federal level and about 40 states with this kind of a program. And the rate of unemployment, I'm told, among the blind community is something approaching 70 percent. And most of these people are able-bodied. They want to work. They're eager to work. They just need that opportunity. This bill, to be perfectly frank, does not solve their problems. It's a small step. There might be some opportunities here in Nebraska, perhaps at the Department of Corrections, perhaps at another state office building in Omaha, there might be some limited opportunities here for them--and they've asked me to do this for them--but to be truthful, it's not going to make a world of difference to the blind community as a whole.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is there any association connected with the state that addresses other types of handicaps besides blinding and...blind...the blind, and maybe the hearing impaired, that you know of?