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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 425

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, I'd withdraw that amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: His amendment has been withdrawn. Mr. Clerk, next amendment, when you get time.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have, Senator Thompson, AM1503. I have a note that she'd like to withdraw AM1503 and offer, as a substitute, AM1600. (Legislative Journal pages 1493-1494.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Any objection? Seeing no objection, so ordered. Senator Thompson, to open.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you. This is the money last week, the TANF, Temporary...federal Temporary Assistance for the Needy...Needy Families, amendment that Senator Foley put up with some modifications. Since during the day we have been negotiating this, I think he's a little bit stronger arm negotiator than I am, but we both signed this amendment. And I believe it's not all of what I want. It's a little bit of what he wants, but not all of what he wants. But I think it tightens this up a little bit and makes it clear that we want Nebraska nonprofits to have preference in the awarding of these funds. It also makes clear that it can be not only one entity that would administer this program but also would allow a coalition of nonprofit entities in this that could group up and put together a proposal in this area. And it also contains language that states that the pilot program may expand existing programs, it doesn't have to be something totally new, and that it will...that the program will have outcome measures and provide the information to the Legislature. After the passage of the amendment, I asked my staff to contact a number of people or organizations in the state that provide these services. We also talked to people who head up two coalitions of Nebraska agencies that provide these services. These incorporate their recommendations. Probably the only difference between Senator Foley and me, and I've agreed to his wish on this, was that I thought we could break it up and do multiple grants. What this will do instead is provide that it can be a single grant or a group of Nebraska entities coming together for a grant. And that is provided, that this is permissible under federal law.