

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, it...

SENATOR WITEK: As far as I know, it's a lid that was set from 1059 and...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, you said no, so I just...I take...

SENATOR WITEK: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I take what you said. And those are all the questions that I will ask you. Members of the Legislature, the standard of need sets out an amount which is, as the term would indicate, needed for a person to live at this minimum level of decency. The Nebraska Legislature has never ever allowed ADC payments to equal or be the equivalent of the standard of need. The standard of need is like, I hate to call it a goal, but it is indicating like a guideline as to what a family in a set of circumstances would need to live at this level of decency, this minimum level. It's just what it said, a standard. It's not a mandated amount that is paid. And for those who like to be so proud of Nebraska and you think that people are going to come flocking to Nebraska if you give a minuscule increase in ADC, right now among the states Nebraska is 46th in terms of the payments, in terms of the assistance that it gives to poor people through these programs. The state right above Nebraska is Mississippi. Let me tell you the states that are below Nebraska. Nebraska is 46th. Delaware is below Nebraska. New Mexico, Virginia, Indiana and Missouri. Nebraska is \$364; at the top is New Hampshire with \$1,484. So nobody needs to say that Nebraska has shown so much compassion and consideration. As a matter of fact, if it wasn't for infusions of federal money and certain federal requirements, nobody who is poor would receive any assistance in this state unless they were a big corporation. Then the money would be flowing as it is now. What Senator Witek is attempting to do at this point...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is to prevent an acknowledgement in the statutes of what this standard ought to be, this standard which is put in place based on the needs that people would have in this society. Maybe she doesn't want the hypocrisy to be so graphically shown by the Legislature stating what that standard is, then looking at how poorly Nebraska functions in terms of meeting it. I am opposed to this amendment which Senator Witek