

need is. It does not fund, it does not set a level. It is just an informational base. In other words it is basically trying to do a survey to determine what it costs to live for a family of four or for others who receive welfare benefits. Now this does not mean that we are going to set this new standard, that we are going to set this standard into law or that we are going to fund this standard. It only tells us what we are actually doing. Now, I think that if, and I think that others, Senator Johnson will certainly explain what the standard is today and how inadequate it is. It is so inadequate what we have set as the standard of need that it is a joke. For that reason we ought to at least know, realistically, what that standard of need should be. This is the only way we can do that. Otherwise we just pull numbers out of the air, attach those numbers somewhere and we have no real idea as to what those needs are. The only way we can do that is to run this survey. I would also like to respond to one other thing that Senator Haberman talked about, fairly inaccurately, Senator Haberman talked about the fact that no other states in the Union have done such a study. It is an impossibility to do such a study. That it is not healthy to do such a study that it is almost immoral to do such a study. Now Senator Johnson was good enough to provide this body some information. Senator Chambers, I don't mean to disagree with you, but, your argument that Senator Haberman can read may in fact be a legitimate argument. But I will say that Senator Haberman has not read. Now that is different from his inability to read, that just points out that he has not read. Senator Johnson has provided information that talks about an Iowa study so obviously with that little bit of information Senator Haberman can not make the blanket statement that no other state in the union has in fact done such a study. The legitimacy of the study to know where we are at is what we are talking about. Not a new standard of need, not adding greatly to the welfare rolls, not providing people with the windfall increases in welfare but just knowing what it takes to live in Nebraska, I think is valuable. For that reason I will support this and I will oppose the Haberman motion to recommit to the committee.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and fellow members I would like to take a few minutes and respond to Senator Haberman's comments. In the first place when Senator Haberman indicates that no other state nor the Federal Government has undertaken this kind of study he probably received that information from the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare. The Nebraska Department of Public Welfare has decided that it does not like the bill. In fact the material that I have sent out today under the little blue sheet which says "LB 35" I have included the memorandum and that memorandum is from the Nebraska Department of Public Welfare and it was issued January 2, 1980 and it says, we don't like this bill. This bill has been