

Nelson, I will give you a couple minutes.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I, too, have to really speak in support of this amendment. These women are women that are taught how to get child support, how to stand up and protect themselves, job opportunities, job...how to apply for work, how to be in the world. They are taught many things that involve women that are not...they have other problems in the industry and in business and we are only talking, after this last vote, I guess anything is cheap now, \$195,000. And these women on the tax rolls, they are there to again be respectable citizens, stand up for maybe their rights, to find...I guess I shouldn't really say that, I don't feel that really, but they need to find out what their role is in life. And this is the only group that is available to speak for this large segment of our society and I certainly can say that if there is any one agency that I feel that should be brought back in, it is this. I will turn it over to Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Nelson, Senator Marsh, Senator Morehead, who didn't speak but wanted to, and all the rest of you who support the Commission on the Status of Women. I again emphasize that we are only dealing the Commission on the Status of Women. I had originally included the Indian Commission and the Mexican-American Commission. Because Senator Chambers has attempted those already, I deleted those from the motion. But please keep in mind that I still believe all three of those commissions deserve to be supported and I think all of you recognize that particularly there is a legitimate concern for those commissions in terms of uplifting people that haven't had a chance before to have a full and equal right of opportunity in our country and nation. And it seems to me that this is the wrong time to be turning our back on those people. These are volunteers from across the state who come in here and they have these staff funded through the state general fund who are able to organize extension and ability to have programs throughout the state at a much cheaper cost than would be the case if we had to pay for all the sort of help that they receive. So the Commission on the Status of Women is a real investment that brings in many other women on a volunteer basis and are able to accomplish great things for all of us. I think we recognize how important it is to help everyone in our society achieve their full potential because everybody has