

seeking a service that the government offers...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and then make the service unavailable to some? I hope that you will vote to strike this cut.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members, I would rise in support of the Chambers amendment. It is similar to the amendment I offered on General File yesterday. As I discussed yesterday and Senator Chambers has just talked to you about, this cut would affect the rural area of the state. Both Senator Chambers and I wouldn't be very much affected by it of all, all the members of the Legislature, but I can tell you that if somebody is in pain in western Nebraska, in northeast Nebraska and southwest Nebraska, I think that pain is felt by all of us in this state. I think we share in the misery of some of those that are impoverished, that are in need of assistance and these individuals deserve help. It is not easy for them to come forward and ask for that assistance and when you place distance barriers for them, I think you are indeed putting up an impediment to their ability to get the help that they deserve. And so I, despite the fact am not very much affected in terms of Lincoln or my district by this, I think we have to care about these people. The rural area of the state is hard hit by the farm economy and I think in fairness we need to provide access to these services. And really the question is, I think there can be an argument in favor of efficiency on these changes, I don't disagree with Senator Warner's argument, but efficiency at the price of equity is the proposition and I think in terms of Social Services sometimes equity is perhaps more important, making sure everybody has a chance and a chance to get back up on their feet and get the help that they need to survive and I think that access is the key question. I think it's impaired by this cut and I would ask your support for Senator Chambers' amendment to restore it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I can tell you from personal experiences that Social Services in my area have many, many times helped children. I know of a case of where the child's teeth were rotten, they were black. The child was neglected, was taken to Social Services and they arranged to