

the present time. And because of that, businesses lower their margin so that they can try to get their volume up. I agree that employees probably should have a little more, but I would say, let's take a look at it in another year and then see what happens. And so with these remarks, I would like to urge you to vote against the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak and then Senator Cullan.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I strongly feel that this is not an excessive amount and it is timely. You know, we keep talking about the fact that employers pay all this premium and that is true, they do pay the total cost of this benefit, but it is not as if it was a total philanthropic type gesture. You know, in return for this they receive immunities that...against suit when you have work related injuries and sickness. Now I think there is a matter of fair play here. In return for that immunity they offer to provide a reasonable benefit. Now I am inclined to agree that maybe the \$200 level may have been more reasonable in light of inflation and where we are today. I am willing, however, to at least accept the \$190 benefit, but I certainly think that that is to say the least the bare minimum. I think we have to remember that if we become too strict on this, if we close the door too tightly, if we don't put ourselves in the position where we are reasonably negotiating this benefit, what is going to happen is that we are going to lose the whole concept, and I don't think employers are going to be willing to open themselves up to the type of legal action that is possible if it were not for this particular program. So I think even though we may have basic prejudices either for or against business, or for or against labor, I don't think we ought to let that get into the way of being reasonable on something that is a two-way street.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan. The motion is to advance the bill.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, very quickly I would urge you to advance the bill as it has been amended. One of the things that the Legislature needs to be reminded of, and I think Senator Hefner and others I think need to go back and recognize, is that one of the major purposes of the Workmens' Compensation law is to actually provide protection for employers, and employees sacrifice significant rights as far as their ability to recover for damages that they incurred as a