

knowing how to proceed. Senator Schmit wants to see if the horse would jump the crevasse and I'm looking to find a ford that will ensure a better result, but we both want to get to the other side. I personally am going to vote against the motion. I think you're all free actors to decide for yourselves how to proceed, but the body has before it many other priorities and options and, frankly, I don't think today, if it's put to a vote, will bring relief for people who deserve relief and I would assume if that's going to be the result that I fear, have another day when the opportunity is better to try to strike out for that remedy.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members, I want to thank Senator Schmit for raising the issue on the floor. I know it has caused a lot of consternation among people and appreciate their indulgence. I guess the issue is just one that won't go away and we've said that time and again whether it's today or next year or the following year or whatever, but on and on and on we will continue to look at this issue until it's resolved and these people are repaid their principal. I think that's maybe a point that has not been lost on anybody on this floor. You know it, and I'm simply stating it. It's not...it's the most important priority to me, it's the most important priority to a number of other senators, but it's also not the most important priority to a number of you who have been helping us with the bill and we understand that and appreciate that. But there is a way in which we could act on the legislation. We can bring it up and we can vote on it and we could pass it and we can send it over there and the Governor has options. She isn't locked into a position of signing and fully funding the bill. She has options. She can veto it down to a level of funding that with the other budget items she has got over there and that is a course of action I think we should take. I know that there has been a lot of talk of linking the Commonwealth issue with other issues and it has scared votes off the measure and I'm sorry to see that, sorry to hear that. We want very much to understand a couple of things. First off, if the bill passes, even if no funding is included we cross the threshold of saying will we do something about this problem. And at least we will cross that and say, yes, we will. And then the question becomes, how do we finance it, when will we finance the issue? Hopefully, we could get that done this year. It looks like that may not be possible because of all the other commitments that seem to have been