

SENATOR LABEDZ: About one minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well since the point that I want to make I can't make in one minute, I will not start on it and have to split it.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, just a... Senator Pirsch, I don't think I have misdirected us on the issue. The issue is very simple. We have people that are on welfare, whatever broad term you want to utilize it. Under the state system, those people get job support, training, education, they get the skills to move into the workforce. Under this proposal you're placing them into volunteer organizations, doing "make work" type activity, completely different approaches. There is a way to resolve the matter and I think the way to resolve it is an amendment that I've had drafted that we looked at briefly in committee and didn't have really time to pursue. It would link up the county general assistance program to authorize them to work with these other programs the state is now involved with with job support and training. There you have a linkage. There you have some sense. There you have what program we have in place, a system in place, utilizing the counties to piggyback on that system, helping these individuals to help themselves and in a way, in a positive way dealing with the problem. And that amendment is something I've talked to Senator Abboud about and I guess I'd ask Senator Abboud his feelings about that approach and his reaction to amending the bill to accomplish that goal of moving toward that sort of an approach versus the one in the bill. And, Senator Abboud, I'd...

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Wesely, I, as we've discussed this earlier, I think that the state program is excellent in providing these people with the type of job training and that's what I would envision with the counties also wanting to be a part of this, so I think the amendment and the approach is excellent.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay. So if we advance the bill, we, Senator Chambers and I and others interested can work with you and we will have an amendment for Select File, is that correct?

SENATOR ABOUD: That's a great idea.