

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, well then, in that case I feel comfortable, because I have talked to Senator Abboud, I know he understands the concerns, I know that he feels as I do that these programs are worthwhile and so with that, I'd have no problem with advancing the bill with the understanding that we would have an amendment on Select File.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Lindsay. Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Abboud. Senator Beck.

SENATOR BECK: Madam Chairman, I just wanted to support Senator Abboud. I'm one of the co-sponsors of the bill with him and several others, and that was the point that I just wanted to make, was that we really ought to work with the Health and Human Services Committee and I think that that would allay Senator Chambers' fears or anyone else's fears as to what would happen with this because that was not at all the intent. The intent is for it to be a reasonable, strong and positive beneficial program. So I think looking to that, I'm perfectly happy that this has been brought up on the floor and that we can look into other programs that we can amend into this bill and then everyone will be pleased because the intent is a positive intent and so I just wanted to mention that and hope that we can now pass the bill on to Select File and makes those differences in those arrangements between the Health and Human Services Committee and the sponsors of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Withem, on the advancement of LB 422.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President and members of the body. I always feel reluctant to stand in the way of a freight train and I kind of feel a freight train coming along here, but I'd like to at least express some of my thoughts on the bill. And what I see developing on the floor may, in fact, be a satisfactory solution to our concerns. What I hear is a bill described as a bill that will help poor people acquire job skills, acquire dignity, be able to perform valuable work for the community in exchange for the program...for the assistance that they receive. What I see written in 422 is giving the power to local county officials to basically discourage anybody from applying for this program, those people that genuinely need it, from applying for that program. Just as an example, Senator Pirsch indicated that in other words these are individuals that turn down job opportunities. That's not what it says in the bill. It says if a person isn't fully employed or in a training