

programs. We have, in Health Committee, a bill that's already been killed to expand Medicaid to cover for low income people drug and alcohol treatment programs. Those concepts languish for lack of attention and support while we move forward on these types of more punitive measures. I am simply saying you can't do it by punishment alone, you have to have programs. And so until I see some effort to deal with that side of it, I can't support further punitive measures without recognizing the other side of the equation.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, Senator Chambers' amendment fell on the side of the worker, made the employer have to prove impairment. Now that might seem outlandish to some of you but it seems pretty fair, really, to me. The way things are now with Senator Hefner's language, anything related to drugs that affects the employment relationship can disqualify a worker from unemployment benefits. It's very unclear. It's very bad law. It's a bad policy for this state to take and I would ask you to defeat this amendment. As I said earlier, we had a simple unemployment increase that we should have voted on hours ago, but in our fervor to punish, as Senator Wesely has pointed out, to penalize these people for this heinous crime, the most heinous crime we can, any of us can think of, the use of one drug or another, we insist on trying to add this type of baggage to a simple, simple bill that was very just and was not in any means excessive. I would urge you to defeat this amendment. Look at this language, look at this language and tell me how clear it is. It is very unclear, very bad policy for the state to allow this type of discrimination to exist and we should just simply defeat this amendment and get on with voting for workers' unemployment increases. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner, please, followed by Senators Coordsen and Chambers.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, what we're talking here is a step towards a drug-free workplace and what's wrong with that? If we're really serious about the drug problem, what's wrong with that? I don't think there is anything wrong. Also, we're talking about these employees endangering lives. If they're driving a vehicle, it's not only endangering their own lives but also the lives of others. Also, if they're operating equipment, machinery, they're endangering