

their lives. And so I don't think it's that bad. What my amendment does now is, as amended, says that an employee is denied unemployment benefits for using illegal drugs, and then with the Coordsen amendment we say but, however, we will go ahead and pay you the same amount out of the contingency fund if you enroll in a rehabilitation program. I think that's a good idea and I support it. Also, we adopted the Hall amendment which deals with drug and alcohol testing and I don't see anything wrong with that. So I think this amendment is a good amendment, as amended. I think it's reasonable. I think it's fair. I think it addresses some of the problems that we have. It certainly doesn't address near all of them but it certainly is a small step to try to address some of the problems we have with drugs. So I would urge you to support it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise to support the adoption of 2508 as an amendment to 315. I think it will help, hopefully, all the people, both employer and employee side, as it's currently drafted. We have, as has been indicated by the speakers, a better definition of the drug test to more well protect the employee. We have provided for an encouragement to enter treatment programs and we have provided a system so that the employer is not going to be penalized from...by discharging a person who is involved in substance abuse on the job. So I would encourage the support of this package.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The member from the 11th legislative district, Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Hefner a question. Senator Hefner...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner, would you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...what do the words "affects the employment relationship" mean? So that we can have some kind of legislative record of what you're trying to do.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, Senator Chambers, I would say that that says what affects employment relationship. And this...