

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Crosby, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I have a couple of questions that I will ask a little later to Senator Wesely. I just wanted to make a couple of comments on this whole situation. From the very beginning when we started talking about the raise in unemployment compensation, I was for that and I was glad of the compromise and I voted for it, I want to protect that. And when they came along with the introduction of these amendments having to do with being fired or whatever for drug abuse, I was very apprehensive because I don't want to lose the bill. I want that raise in unemployment compensation. I have some knowledge of unemployment compensation and how it works. Just recently a constituent has been going through some things and the one thing that concerns me about putting the drug abuse clause into this bill is that the families of those people who end up without unemployment compensation because of drug or alcohol abuse, the families are the ones that are going to be hurt, the wife and children, or, and/or husband and children, however it happens to work out. So for that reason, for those reasons I really didn't like having this added to this bill. I'm not sure it should have been added at all. If it had been free standing, I would have voted for it and I did vote for the amendment based on that feeling, that if it had been free standing, I would have voted for it. But right now, this particular amendment concerns me from this point of view. It sounds like we're mandating health insurance with this particular discipline in it and not every employer even gives health insurance to their employees. That is a big question all the way across as to who pays for what. Some employees pay for part, some employees pay for all of their health insurance through a group that is through an employer, some employers pay for all of it, so I think just this one amendment isn't going to solve this particular problem. The other thing, Senator Wesely, I want to be sure I understand a couple of things about unemployment compensation. This is a couple of fears I have about this amendment, so if I vote against it, you see where I'm coming from. If a person has only worked a week or so for somebody and has had a history of alcohol and drug abuse and finally, you know, can't hack it, is that employer liable at that time? I don't think so. I think you have to have a certain amount of time, right?

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah.