

March 19, 1990

LB 315

SENATOR CROSBY: The other thing, if you go on unemployment, you're not working for that person. I don't know what happens to your health benefits. Are there statutes now? I know there is coverage for a certain length of time on that. Most places you do continue some coverage, right?

SENATOR WESELY: Under COBRA, federally it is required but...

SENATOR CROSBY: Yeah.

SENATOR WESELY: ...but there is an exemption for when you are fired.

SENATOR CROSBY: So see, there is a little ambiguity there that would maybe make this particular amendment questionable. This is all my own feeling, and as I said from the beginning, I did not like having this amended into this particular bill. I've listened carefully too to what Senator Coordsen said. I think maybe a study might be in order right now to bring out all of these things because I have been through the alcohol thing, believe me, I know all about that, and to me alcohol and drug abuse are parallels, partners, whatever, it's all the same thing and I know a lot of employers, and I do happen to, eventually, I'm going to pass around an article that was in the World-Herald, thank you, Don. I didn't mean to make you keep standing there. I'm going to pass out an article that was in the World-Herald two or three weeks ago in the employment section which is an alternative to the current drug testing, the way they do the drug testing through...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...urine specimens and so on because I think it's a most interesting alternative and this works in, again, to having a study of the whole thing and trying to come back with a workable law that will be fair to employer and employee alike because employers have an obligation to their employees to work and give them a fair go, but employees have an obligation to the employer, too, to be in shape to work and to do their job well for the pay they receive because the person that invests his or her capital, of course, try to make a profit and you can't afford to put out all your money for health insurance and so on. All the benefits are wonderful, but you can go just so far with those, too. So, thank you very much. I certainly would vote for the...or opt or whatever, for the study. Thank you.

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