

father or mother to your children, but in practice this is not the way it is. A parent has an obligation to show a child how to behave and to correct him very tenderly when he does not, and to see after his welfare whether he does or does not. In a business relationship the employee is his own man. He is responsible for the things he does. If he drinks on the job, if he uses drugs on the job, he knows in advance that these are actions that will cost him his job and I feel that, very similar to what Senator Hefner has said, that people need to have some self-discipline and be accountable for their own actions. I'd ask that you reject the Wesely amendment.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, followed by Senator Morrissey.

**SENATOR WESELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I think there's some misconceptions that I'd like to try to clear up from some of the conversation we've have had on the floor. This amendment does not mandate that anybody has to have health insurance provided. It simply says that to be fair you ought not to deny somebody their unemployment benefits if they are fired from a job because of a drug or an alcohol problem and cannot afford to get into a drug or alcohol treatment program. Now here's the situation. If you have two individuals and both are fired for, say, drug abuse, one has got insurance or financial resources and can get into a drug treatment program, then they continue to get benefits. But the other person doesn't have the money or doesn't have the insurance, they can't afford to get into a treatment program, so they lose their benefits. How is that fair? It simply isn't fair. You're punishing an individual who is really down on their luck even worse than the other individual. They both have the same problem, they've been fired from a job for drug or alcohol problems. We want them to deal with their problem. One has the ability to do it and so they get an additional benefit of unemployment benefits coming into them, but the other hasn't the financial resources and they don't get it. Well, I get it, that's unfair. It's a completely unfair situation and I don't know about studying it or spending more time on it, I'm talking about enacting into the statutes a new policy that was adopted on General File here that is patently unfair in not recognizing the real world out there of individuals who have problems, they've lost their jobs, so they've got even more problems, and how do we deal with that problem? Well, we have to deal with it, in fact, by trying to find a way to treat that problem.