

disqualification into LB 315, then the treatment side, the back side of the equation ought to be just as much on the forefront with regard to this amendment and with regard to requiring that employers provide this to their employees. That is clearly as important. If we're true, truly honest about this issue with regard to wanting to clean up the workplace, then we ought to do what needs to be done to get that accomplished and that is provide treatment for these workers. And it's one thing to say we're going to toss you out, it's another thing to say, look, we honestly want to try to clean everything up and we're going to provide treatment. We don't want to do that unless we adopt Senator Wesely's amendment and from listening to the proponents such as Senator Hefner who say that if you provide treatment that encourages drug use, my God, Senator Hefner, I don't know where you picked that up but you're reading a different Journal than I am because it is clearly not the case that something like this would encourage drug use, absolutely the opposite is true. If you don't do this, what you're going to do is you're going to push those people who currently are in the workplace using drugs that much farther underground because the fear there is that they're going to lose their unemployment benefits should they be found out. And if we don't allow them an opportunity to seek that treatment, we don't allow them the opportunity to get into a program for recovery, they're going to be pushed that much farther underground. That is not the way to deal with this issue. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, when I...this summer, this bill was, or this concept was presented to me by members of the business community in Omaha and I remember the conversation I had with these individuals and the concern was, as it was presented to me, was we have to find a way to dis...these weren't businessmen necessarily, but these were groups that represented businessmen, business people, and they said to me, we've got to find a way to be able to deal with these cases of employees who are on drugs and we've got to be able to put some kind of a hammer over them to dissuade them from using drugs, and would you support legislation like that? And I said, absolutely not unless there was some provision to make sure that we were all in this together as we are in this problem, to make sure that if we were going to put a hammer over their head, in essence, that we had, if that were the term that was going to be used, or the concept that was going to be put