

this Legislature should do in paying its devoir to virtue because what the Legislature has done to this time, up to this point is inexcusable and it is shameful. I support Senator Wesely's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Senator Chambers made some good points about the baggage of this bill and the weight of this bill. I seriously have to consider whether I can support the original bill, the \$10 increase in unemployment with the baggage that it has now, but Senator Wesely's amendment can help out on that cause. Without Senator Wesely's amendment, employees can be disqualified for gross negligence which would include presence of drugs on the job, refusal to take a test. Senator Coordsen added an amendment that it would take away that disqualification if the employee went into drug testing, and that's the way it sets right now. So what do we have? Without the Wesely amendment and with the Coordsen amendment, if you go into treatment you won't be disqualified. If you don't go into treatment because you can't afford it, you will be disqualified. If you don't go into treatment because you don't want to, you will be disqualified. Senator Wesely's amendment would eliminate the person who wouldn't go into treatment because they couldn't afford it. That person would no longer be disqualified. We should not be disqualifying these people simply because they cannot afford to go into treatment. You will discourage a person who has a problem from coming up and admitting that problem saying, yes, I want to go into treatment. Without Senator Wesely's amendment that person won't come forward because he will not or she will not be able to afford to go into treatment, so they will hide their problem, possibly keep getting by, possibly jeopardizing other workers' safety. Senator Wesely's amendment will encourage these people to come forward and seek treatment because they will know that they can get that treatment. Wanting treatment and not being able to afford it makes a difference. If I want treatment and can't pay for it, there's nothing I can do about it. If I admit my problem, I'll be disqualified for unemployment and the spiral continues downward. My problem will more than likely get worse. We can hope that they'll just pull themselves up by the bootstraps and say, by golly, I've had it, I'm going to end this drug problem, but that's not that easily done, folks, and you all know that. So without Senator Wesely's amendment we are discriminating against