

distributing in the workplace, cocaine, crack, marijuana, any of the other controlled substances by definition, and if that employer did not provide a health policy that covered the treatment, they would not be disqualified for unemployment, that they could draw it immediately. An employee at the next desk or at the next work station or whatever who was fired because they were habitually late would have seven to ten weeks disqualification. An employee who stole some item of value from the employer and it was proven would probably be totally disqualified under the gross misconduct section. So we could well have a major problem in our unemployment statutes with the adoption of this amendment in that we would be creating an unreasonable classification for unemployment. I would renew my encouragement at this time not to...to not adopt the Wesley amendment, but rather take some time and make sure that if this is the direction that we want the policy of the State of Nebraska to take, that we do it in a way...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...that doesn't demolish the current system on disqualification for employment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Coordsen a question because I don't see Senator Hefner.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen, would you respond.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Coordsen, do you see drug addiction as a sickness?

SENATOR COORDSEN: I would suppose there are people, by definition, myself, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you see alcoholism as a sickness?

SENATOR COORDSEN: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I hope you will see from Senator Coordsen's answer where we are and what we are being asked to do. We're being asked to deny what medical science has told us. Junkies are sick people. Oh,