

amending...let me see if I totally understand. The concept that you're getting to, I totally agree with. I'm wondering if, are we saying by this amendment that, is the problem that we're getting to this? An employee is terminated for drug use. He or she...the Coordsen amendment is on and this amendment doesn't get on, the employee is terminated, goes down and applies for unemployment compensation and he is told, he or she is told that if you are enrolled in a drug treatment plan program that you are entitled to your benefits, if you are not, you are not entitled to your benefits. Is that...that's essentially the Coordsen amendment, isn't that right?

SENATOR WESELY: Mmmm, hmmm.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Isn't...and what you're doing is, in your amendment, is basically saying that he or she cannot be denied benefits if there is an...well, strike that. Are you saying that the employer must provide the program? Is that what you're...?

SENATOR WESELY: In order to deny that individual the unemployment benefits, the employer will have to have in place at least insurance coverage or the willingness to pay for the treatment of that employee.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: If they don't, if the employer isn't willing to provide that assistance, an employee will not be denied the benefits, unemployment benefits, simply...

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay. What about the situation where, for example, let's say the employee, Senator Hall gave the example of the facility that is overbooked, it's free, or very low cost and an individual has a long waiting list to get in, what if we had an amendment or a provision which said that he or she would be entitled to the unemployment benefits if he or she agrees to participate in a drug or alcohol program, because it seems to me maybe one of the problems here is that it's too costly or maybe, you know, I don't know, I mean, one, that the employers, some smaller employers, they just can't, that's just too costly for me to do, but if we were to put in there to amend it to say that if the employee is ready and available I guess, to use statutory terms in other areas, ready and available to participate in a drug program, then they would still get the benefits. That