

March 19, 1990

LB 315

would somewhat accomplish...it wouldn't get them into the program necessarily as quickly...

SENATOR WESELY: I see what you're saying.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...but at least it wouldn't deny them the benefits.

SENATOR WESELY: That's something I could live with, frankly. The problem is not only in the program that Senator Hall talked about, we have a state program at Hastings. It's not just a three-month waiting, you could wait a half a year or longer to get into that program. In the meantime, see the reason I put down employer having to pay for it is because these people may want to be in the program, but their benefits will run out by the time they could even get into the program. They won't have any benefits and what do they do in the meantime?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Right. Well, let me just...I think that there...maybe there would be a lot less opposition to the amendment, we're sort of bantering here, but, to the amendment if at least for now we had the provision that is if they were ready and available to participate in the program and did, and if they didn't have the money to pay for it, it would have to be a cost-free program...

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...and then those employees would not be denied benefits might take some of the onus off the employer from the cost perspective but would still leave the employee protected.

SENATOR WESELY: So that the employee...oh, is time up? The employee would be able to get the benefits pending their ability to get into a program.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Right.

SENATOR WESELY: I'd be willing to look at that, absolutely.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay. That's all I have, thank you.