

service. Again, the concept of community service, as I envision it in the bill, is not to punish these individuals, but rather to give them further enhancement of their skills. To take the idea that they've got some technical skills, some job training now, under this proposal, and then get them into a volunteer situation so they can show they can do a job. They get used to going to work. They get the experience they need to move into the work force, and it should be the next step and enhance the situation. So logically this all fits together. The only concern is potential abuse. And I think that this amendment, being adopted, should deal with my concerns, and I would feel much more comfortable with the bill and feel very supportive of the thrust of the legislation. With that, I'd be happy to answer questions or just again move for the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I will now recognize senators wishing to speak on this amendment. Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Madam President, members of the body, I support Senator Wesely's amendment. It provides further clarification as to what job training programs shall mean. It's the intent of the bill that this type of training shall be in the form of technical job skills and equivalent knowledge. I feel strongly that that is the approach that needs to be taken with general assistance, or general assistance program. In addition, this particular language that is being added to the bill follows a federal act, Family Support Act of 1988 in providing specific definitions of what job training should be. The intent of this bill is to see that individuals are given a step towards self-sufficiency. It's not in any way meant to be punitive. It's a step towards a full-time job. And that's the idea behind getting them started, requiring them to work some hours, seeing that no one profits by it, but only hope of the bill is to hopefully see these people become fully self-sufficient in society. So I support the...Senator Wesely's amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wesely, would you yield to a couple questions?

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.