

somebody just sits there for three months, that isn't enhancing their job availabilities. And they thought that if they had community service and got to work and felt good about that, and people could see they could do that, that they would have a better chance of getting a job. So they saw it as a positive adjunct.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SENATOR WESELY: In fact, what surprised me was I got a letter from an individual in Omaha whose very much an advocate for the poor who supports this. And that kind of changed my mind around, because he saw it, if done right, could be advantageous to these people and not detrimental.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: And so the potential is there for abuse, but the potential is there for some positive things as well.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Does anyone else wish to speak to the amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Wesely?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. I want to extend my appreciation to senator Bernard-Stevens for his questions, and I think they are very legitimate. But on this particular amendment, again we're dealing with a job training program under the bill. Again, if you recall last year, Senator Abboud had a bill that would have done community service. And I gracefully amended it, with the help of the body, to turn it into a job training program, so that the counties could provide job training where they weren't able to before for these individuals. I think the county finally got the message that they weren't going to get community service alone, they just weren't going to get it. And I want to extend my appreciation to Senator Bernard-Stevens and everybody else in this body that objected to that approach. So the message got through last year, with the job training thing. And as they worked through setting up the program, and worked with the different groups, they came back and said, you know, there's a way to fit all this together in a way that would be good for everybody. And so that's what this bill is in follow up to that. But what they missed was the possibility of those counties that still have a way of looking at this from the past and would see it as a chance to punish people. And the way you