

making progress. Senator Bernard-Stevens' concerns are valid. We'll take a look at some language. But in my estimation we've made tremendous strides with this legislation over the past, and I'm very pleased that we have seen this readjustment and realignment in priorities. And I want to again thank Senator Abboud for his work on this.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Abboud, your light is the only light on. Do you wish to use this as your closing?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, Mr. President, this will be my closing on the bill. This particular bill has been through an evolutionary process. It's been examined and reexamined by the counties in trying to put together the best possible system. And I think that we all agree, when we get into questions of welfare, that it's an evolutionary process. What we might have thought would have worked 20 years ago, may not work today. And this piece of legislation is part of that process. I appreciate all of the hard work that Senator Wesely has put in with this legislation, as well as the Health Committee in examining the tough questions of how to best handle individuals that are receiving general assistance. I would also thank Senator Bernard-Stevens for raising concerns, because those types of concerns are balanced against the concerns raised by different members of the body. As I was talking to Senator Wehrbein here, he saw that those people had to work 16 hours a week, maximum, and he was wondering why they didn't have to work 40 hours a week. So you have difference within the body as to what is the proper balance between receiving general assistance with no strings attached, to giving individuals that step up to getting a job and being a part of society, a productive part of society. But again I'd like to thank Senator Wesely and the committee for all their hard work on the bill. And I'd move its advancement.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. You've heard Senator Abboud's closing on the advancement of LB 227. We'll now vote on the advancement. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 227.

SPEAKER BAACK: LB 227 advances. Before we proceed to the next item of business, I would like to introduce a guest of Senator