

saying to us in that hearing was they have informal things, they don't have an actual leave policy, but they generally try to accommodate their employees in circumstances. Do you think that might be the case?

SENATOR WESELY: Perhaps that's the difference, yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yeah. I just...I guess...I guess I'm having trouble understanding how anybody could be against this bill, even business. I would think it would be in their best interest to have happy employees, productive employees, and if what we've seen...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...is true, in the information, the...the leave policies that have been placed in other states are cost effective. So unless Senator Ashford can give me some new information about figures and so forth, I'm not sure that I can support his amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Wesely, you're next.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I want to comment Senator Ashford for, first off, his support of the bill, but also recognizing that the sensitivity with which we have to deal with the business perspective on this. Clearly, the business community feels that this is an imposition that will cost them money. As I've said, as Senator Schimek, as Senator Morrissey, as others have said, our figures would indicate that handled properly, this not only should not cost, but could save companies money, when you looked at it in the long-term and the broad perspective that you need to have. The alternative to granting leave is to terminate and then rehire, retrain, and you lose experience and skill levels of those employees that needed the leave time that you've let go. So, clearly, there's a question. The business community feels there is a cost. The figures I've got indicate that overall, at least, there doesn't appear to be a cost. And so I think, as Senator Ashford said, this tax credit, if it's properly structured, will not end up costing us that much money. And if it will alleviate the concerns of business, I'm certainly willing to look at that. I'm a bit concerned about the drafting of it. And I think what I could...I could live with either way. If the amendment is