

you're next.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that I think every one of us know that there's certainly a need, maybe it's very rare, but some of those cases are desperate cases. And as all legislation on the floor, maybe 5 percent of the...there is a problem, and 95 percent there's not. So it's an issue that's difficult for all of us. I know yesterday it was passed out on the floor a letter that a very desperate situation from a lady, she's very, very definite that we need this type of legislation. I don't know if any of you read the three page letter, but I will have to tell you not her...not the company that she was working for, it was a small, I don't know whether they sold earrings or something in the mall. But, of course, it was devastating to her to find that she wouldn't have a job. But it was a considerable length of time. But I do want to tell you that one of the other businesses in Grand Island provided the air ambulance, over \$900, to she and her husband or her family for her flight to...up to Mayo's. They also gave her husband 71 days off from work, they didn't have to do that for that reason. I have a little problem mandating this onto a company. Not all companies are that generous. I did survey seven of the larger businesses that I thought, in Grand Island, may or may not be affected by this legislation. Each and every one of them have a policy in place right now. There was considerable difference. In that policy, I do want to tell you, some were far more generous than others, and some were not too generous. I can tell you when they were talking about the number of people that might use it. One company in Grand Island that employs from 800 to 1,000 people, they mentioned in the correspondence back to me that about 30 to 40 employees a year use their current policy right now. And so that may give you a little idea how many may or may not be affected. This company has it in so, in essence, they would not be affected. One suggestion that I may have, and I will not be supporting, I don't think, Senator Ashford's amendment, is that if temporary replacement workers were hired, that it would help the smaller businesses if those temporary workers, I don't think that unless they had other quarters of earning, should be exempt from unemployment tax, so that that business, small business particularly would not have that additional burden. I probably will not be supporting the bill unless something has come up that I don't see now. I have a problem in mandating something that I think is a point of...a point of negotiation. And if some of the businesses, particularly the smaller ones had to have this policy in place,