

50, more specially 25, and as that number drops. The people I talked to, their real concerns and where they're having problems are certainly in businesses with fewer employees with this...than this, and so, as I shared with you before, I'm concerned that this is misfocused. You've spoken about it being a floor and then I'm assuming that we would then later come back...you would come back and suggest moving this on with smaller businesses, that seems less straightforward, to me than dealing with where the problems...the majority of the problems are right now, today. And you may res...would you like to respond?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. I agree that we have a problem with those smaller businesses. It is my desire...originally, the bill called for 25 or more employees. The federal legislation that was passed and is now pending was 50 or more employees. So we decided to try and match up and not have a different standard and so we talked about 50 or more employees. The committee decided to raise it to 100 employees. I wish they hadn't. I wish we were able to talk about 50 or more employees, particularly. I'm being as straightforward as I can. I would prefer it at 50 but the committee and evidently a number of legislators feel more comfortable with the figure of 100. And so I'm not trying to be anything but direct and as honest as I can be, but I think, as Senator Morrissey said, this is the best we can do and if that's the best we can do, I would like to see what the results are and certainly hope that we can eventually convince the business community that this is ultimately good for them even at a lower figure than 100.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you. And the only thing that then what it doesn't allow us to address are the problems that smaller business have in being able to afford this in ways that we might meet and work that out with them by focusing on businesses with 100 or more employees. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Morrissey, you're next.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, and I also am glad...oh, Rex is back now, I was going to say I was glad he was gone, but...because there is another issue he spoke of, not just gender but taxpayers, that the only taxpayers were