

operated a business but that doesn't mean that we can't understand some of the problems that they have. I would also like to remind you that probably most everybody on this floor has families and we are experienced with the problems that families face on a daily basis and I think particularly the younger members of this body who are raising children in a time when both parents are working, it's totally different from what it was 30 or 40 years ago when people were raising their children. And I think that we have to recognize those problems. I also agree with Senator Bohlke, and I said this the other day on the floor, this bill does not go far enough. And I say that because, one, so many of the people that need the help that this bill could offer are the people that are not going to be covered, the low income families, for instance, the single parent families which traditionally, but not always, happen to be women, who don't have many options out there. I would say this also impacts on families who have elderly parents to care for or...or members of their family with very severe illnesses, or that have primary responsibility for child care. And, let's face it, as Senator Morrissey pointed out, oftentimes these are women. I guess I feel a little frustrated over this bill because I think it is the right thing to do but I don't think it goes far enough. And I think that if we don't do it, I'm not going to cry buckets because I think the federal government is going to do it for us. Sooner or later we're going to have federal legislation in this area. I wouldn't vote for the bill if it included paid benefits, but the bill doesn't, it talks about unpaid benefits and it's going to be very difficult for some of those families to make that decision for taking those six weeks off without pay and having to...and having to pay for their own benefits. It's going to be difficult. So you know it's not going to be overused, as has already been stated. With that, I would just...I would just say, Senator Haberman, that times are not what they were and that I think we...this Legislature should be profamily as well as probusiness and I think that this bill is a step in the right direction, even if it doesn't go far enough. Thank you.

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

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I just rise with somewhat of an explanation of my vote, more than an argument. Because I respect so much what Senator Schimek and Senator Wesely are arguing and saying and I think that certainly