

they have convinced me and I've been convinced already in theory that family leave is an appropriate policy to be implemented by businesses, not only large businesses but, as Senator Bohlike suggests, smaller businesses as well. And I know I had an amendment to this bill, one amendment which would have provided a tax credit for larger businesses and then I had another amendment which I withdrew which would have created a tax credit for all businesses that implemented a family leave policy. My argument, I guess is, and where I...where I diverge from the proponents of this bill is that the cost of family leave should be dispersed across the society and not placed in one or another business. I think it's a societal problem and it's a societal problem that we are dealing with every day in our court system and in our social services administration and then, unless we come to grips with it in a real positive way as a society, we're going to continue to have those problems. So I would...and I wish we were here with a bill like the child care bill that Senator Landis and I had before that would have provided for credits for all businesses to provide for family leave. And I would love to see an omnibus bill, like 775, but only dealing with some of these problems, a tax incentive package that would provide businesses with incentives to do child care and to do family leave and do educational opportunities for employees. And I would like to see, dreaming a bit, but would like to see sort of another 775 and the new 775 should be a bill that deals with those societal problems and offers businesses an opportunity to...at a good business reason for doing those things and so that society, as a whole, would share those costs. But, inasmuch as this is a mandatory bill, that's requiring a business to do this, I can't support it but I would support now, which is unlikely to happen, but in the future a comprehensive bill that would provide incentives for businesses to provide these kinds of incentives. And I also compliment Senator Wesely on the professional manner in which he has brought this bill to us because I think he's raising an issue that we need to address. But, again, I think it's a societal question and that the costs should be borne by society as a whole. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, I think that the men and the women who run businesses (laughter)...Senator Schimek, thank you for calling that to my attention. I would like to say to you, Senator Schimek, you quoted figures and percentages and the only thing I can say,