

SENATOR WESELY: And, again, the point I would make is the access issue. This focuses in on the fact that you can't even get to the delivery of services because you can't access the services because you can't communicate about the services. So this...this deals in terms...in my view, in my view, the access question here is being able to communicate to the deliverer of the services and then back to the individual needing the services so that you can assess what is needed and then make a determination what you need and if it's available to you to get those services.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I think it's clear, Senator Wesely, that that's the intention of the Legislature. I guess all I'm doing is drawing to the attention of the sponsors of the bill and to you as the Chair of the committee that this went through, that those two words "ensure full access", that phrase, those three words, have some questions about those and if that may, in fact, open some cause of action, some entitlement, as it were, for the state to provide very expensive services for individuals and I have those concerns. I'm going to support this bill at this point, but I would hope later on we would address that particular language and you're frantically trying to get a response in so let me yield the rest of my time to you.

SENATOR WESELY: I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Senator Withem. You make a very excellent point. That was why we were concerned about the other ADA language.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: I think there was an entitlement with that other language that was stricken. That was the concern. I don't feel the same concern with this. If it said "shall receive full and comprehensive services", that's an entitlement. But this is...this question is access. These people can't even access it, can't even talk to somebody about getting the services because...and I think that's what we're addressing, that particular barrier. Beyond that, if...if the communication determines that the mental health services are needed but they're not...I mean, then they have to determine...there's waiting lists, there's a determination of who, you know, the criteria, there are priorities and it all gets very complicated. In some cases, you have to wait for alcohol and mental health services. I don't think that these people would jump ahead