

because of this law, but, at the same time, they would have the chance to assess what it is their needs are and then move forward because they wouldn't have that language barrier, communication barrier we now have. So that's my interpretation. Maybe Senator Crosby sees it differently, but the language here I think is fairly clear in that regard, at least the way I look at it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, and members of the Legislature, and Senator Maurstad, you see I took a sound thumping on that vote and I will take many such whippings before the session is over, but I still support the bill. The bill does achieve some results that I think are very desirable and are late in coming. Just to touch briefly on the discussion between Senator Withem and Senator Wesely, I would like to point out that when you have the type of disability that we're dealing with here, hearing impaired, that can intensify and make more severe the impact of certain problems that those who are not hearing impaired would have. And because that disability intensifies some of these problems that nonimpaired...nonhearing impaired people would have points out that people similarly situated nevertheless are not in the same circumstances. Maybe you have a hearing impaired person who turns to drink because of the problems associated with the isolation that Senator Crosby discussed. Once having turned to drink, that person's system is such that alcoholism results. A person who is not hearing impaired may be an active alcoholic also, but the reasons they have for being in this situation are different. The motivation for kicking this problem could be different for somebody who said even if I lick this problem, I can't get a job, I can't be in the company of people who will not make fun of me. Even though I may have gone to a school where they teach me to approximate the sounds that the nonhearing impaired utter, people are going to know from my difference of inflection or lack of inflection that either I hear very poorly or I don't hear at all. And maybe some people, so afflicted, don't have a strong sense of self-esteem. They don't have self-confidence and they feel that they're like a ship adrift. Not only do they have no mooring, they don't have the means to determine the direction that they will move so they feel that they have no control over their destiny and whatever happens will happen. She mentioned the regrettable situation of an individual committing suicide. We know that people who are not hearing