

impaired commit suicide but it's from a different reason. So even though some of these services that we're discussing here may not be available to people who are nonhearing impaired because of waiting lists and so forth, if we take into consideration all of the circumstances that creates a problem for a person, I think we can see that even though, at first blush, they seem to be similarly situated, they really are not. Their circumstances are not the same. And when an actual, factual difference can be shown between two sets of circumstances, there is a basis for treating the two differently. So even though I understand what Senator Withem was discussing and what he was getting at,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I'm not prepared to agree that a person who is hearing impaired facing one of these problems is on the same footing as a person who is not hearing impaired and the only thing necessary is to assist this person who is hearing impaired in being aware of what things are made available under these programs. There are things that perhaps we can clarify in the bill, but I certainly hope we don't try to narrow its scope. And, Senator Maurstad, I say again, although the welts are still clear on my hide, I support this bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Madam President, and members, Senator Crosby, I think I understand somewhat the focus in the audience here and the special population that you're trying to address and the problems that they have because we also have additional populations out there. I know that I'm aware of the Spanish speaking population that has a very difficult time accessing services because of a language barrier and there is also the Native-American which feel that because of their culture there are not the types of services that are available to address the particular problem in their community also. And so I do sympathize and I support somewhat what it is that you're trying to do here. My questions have to do more probably with the implementation of the bill and wondered if you could yield to some questions that I have, please.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Crosby.