

Secondly, the data element that identifies workers with a definite date of recall to their previous employer are members in good standing with a specific union where the union acts as an employment agent for the member and workers on layoff from an industry or occupation defined as a regular job with an unknown return to work date but with the definite return prospects with the industry or occupation following a characteristic off period will be used to screen out attached workers and identify only workers for a need of assistance acquired through reemployment services. To me, this means that if a worker has a possibility of being reemployed either because there will be a definite date of recall or they are part of a union which would...a specific union, and the union acts as an agent for that employee to be reemployed and they will be reemployed then they would not be identified as one of the unemployed workers that would fit within this relocation legislation. The next criteria, the total weeks of unemployment insurance payable, if less than 12, this will identify those workers whose likelihood of exhausting benefits is due to insufficient wage credits in employment history, the remaining criteria that will be used by the Department of Labor would be education level, job tenure, weekly benefit amount, base period wages, number of base period employers, labor market and historical claim exhaustion information identifying declining industries and occupation within substate areas will then be applied through a statistical model to those workers that pass the initial screening, assigning each a probability index of exhaustion and a need for reemployment services. That is basically the identification criteria that will be used. This identification criteria was given to the State Department of Labor from the federal government. We operate...we operate our Department of Labor through almost exclusively federal funding, and when we talk about the loss of funds, if we did not pass this bill, it would be in the neighborhood of \$10 million. So that's the reason why we...why we're passing this piece of legislation because of the loss of federal funds if we don't pass it. And I will be happy to answer any questions about the legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. The Chair recognizes Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, and members, again, I rise in, I guess, opposition to the bill at present, at least at a minimum to question the purpose behind it and that is not to say I question Senator Abboud or his explanation of the