

think Senator Vrtiska when he talked about this being a consumer bill, I don't think the cost is going to be passed on to the consumer, in fact, I think it's going to be some savings to the consumer because we're having to pay through all these other areas so that we're sure that we have interpreters. I think it's a very excellent bill. I hope we move it on and I strongly support it. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is really an interesting discussion here this morning, but I'm not sure that we're...we might be discussing more of a social issue than the actual bill itself. I guess what comes to my mind when I look at a bill like this is, first, we're opening up tremendous opportunities for liability to the companies, if they don't do what we're telling them to do here. Any one of those individuals could come in and take them to court and who knows what, if you pull at the heartstrings of a lot of individuals within the criminal justice system or within the justice system, what could happen as far as penalties for these companies, these employers. I think that's probably what they fear more than wanting to help individuals over some rough spots of adjusting to a new country. The adjustments that these people go through are tremendous, probably similar to the same adjustments that my ancestors went through, three generations ago, coming in from Ireland. I'm sure many of them within a month's period of time felt like getting back and going back to what they were familiar with. So you're not just dealing with an employer situation here, you're dealing with a lot of emotions of those individuals within the first month of their employment that are playing at them and adjusting and you're placing all of the responsibility on the employer. If everything doesn't go right within the first month and those individuals want to go back, then the employer has to send them back at their own expense. I think that's the wrong place to place so much of the responsibility for possibly an individual not assimilating to this country or to a new job or to a new community within that short period of time. I don't...I want to speak from my own experience, living in a packing plant town in Dennison and living in a trailer court for several years with many of the individuals who we're speaking about here who did move to this country to work in a lot of the packing plants and did eventually sustain, get more of their family up here to work in the plants. They were a lot of them saving money, sending large amounts of their money back