

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: On the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lynch will be speaking on the bill. Senator Vrtiska, I turned your light off. You still want to maintain your speaking order for the bill itself? Okay. Senator Beutler, on the amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I don't think I support the deletion of Section 2, although I understand to a large extent, I think, the arguments being made. I think this is a little bit different situation than the immigration waves of the 1880s or the 1920s. At that point in time in our society it was tough. I mean it was a lot tougher than it is for these people, I believe that. But the key difference, as far as we're concerned I think, is the fact that today we don't throw these people out in the street, we don't let them starve, we don't let them go without medical care, we're not going to do that, we wouldn't want to do that. We've come a long ways since the 1880s and the 1920s. We're going to take care of them if they're here. And so the question is, how do we best serve the taxpayer in this situation and how do we best treat these people fairly in this situation? And I think that the taxpayer is best served by a situation where the companies who have recruited these people and understand that this Section 2 has now been limited, remember, only to those companies that are more than 100, have more than 10 percent foreign language and also have engaged in active recruitment. So these workers need to be kept off of our welfare system. You know, one trip back...one free trip back to Texas is a lot less expensive than somebody hanging onto our welfare system for a year or two or more, a lot less expensive. And having someone in the company who's able to communicate with that individual about what the community is, is able to communicate in their language, I think is going to be helpful in keeping a lot more people off the welfare system and helping them retain their employment once they get up here. If we can succeed in creating a situation where a much higher percentage of those people hold onto the jobs, we are going to have succeeded in saving the taxpayer a considerable amount of money, a considerable amount of money. Now there are two requirements in Section 2. The first requirement is for an interpreter. I think it's very