

some very successful legislation and so we've got to bring the Governor in on this issue, whether it's Ben Nelson or anybody else. That is what we found in the past, that is what we need to anticipate in the future. And I'll tell you this, if the Witek amendment is adopted and you strike this from the amendment, my whole feeling about this changes a great deal because, as a task force member, that was something we all agreed to. There was a consensus on this point that health care had to be there and, in my view, there will be a betrayal of what we had done and the next amendment that I'll put up there is to cut off...the cutoff on health benefits that would occur under this bill will not happen if there isn't health care provided that individual through their employer. I mean that's...if you'd talk about fluff, if you talk about not having any meat to this, well we can put some meat on this. We can do something very direct and have an impact but I thought the better course of action is to take on faith that we don't know the solution to this problem and we'll have to work together to find that solution, but if you want something that is a little more direct, we can come up with it and we can very directly address this. But I think the better solution now is to say, as we did with the task force, this is where we have to be. If we want to deal with welfare, you've got to deal with health care...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...and the solutions to this problem are complex and they will need the participation of both the Governor and the Legislature and the private sector and we'll give ourselves four years and the reason that we picked four years is that it will be four years before anybody is cut off of any health care benefits anyway. So we have a window of opportunity if we don't sit on our hands and just hope things get better. If we take charge of the issue and move forward, there are solutions to the problem and we ought to be working on those solutions. So again, I implore you to oppose the Witek amendment and to adopt the committee amendment. It is probably the very least we can do to address this issue.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I'll call the question.

SENATOR CROSBY: The question has been called. Do I see five