

about that, this is saying that you may, according to the caseworker at that initial meeting, go over your...what assets you have as far as what abilities you have, and then looking at what is the best plan to get you an education that can get you a job that pays a living wage. Part of that very well could be going to a community college to learn a new skill. A community college is a postsecondary education. It was always the intent that that be included. Senator Wesely brought forward the fact that he wanted it stated more plainly. And, certainly, if a woman came in and only had three semester hours left for her college degree, it would make no sense in that individual initial assessment to say, well, we aren't going to pay for that. I mean, how much sense does that make when, with that additional three hours, she could go out and get an excellent job? And so it's always been the intent to provide the new training, the new skills to women; it has never been the intent for the state to provide a four-year college education. This does not do that, it just give the caseworker the possibility of allowing women to attend either a community college or what may be necessary in order to complete their education to go out and earn a living wage. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. First off, I think I heard an assumption on Senator Witek's part, and it came up in the committee when we discussed this, that somehow by including this in the bill we will pay for the higher education, the tuition, or whatever, cost there is to assuming that. If you think that, forget that, because that's not what we're talking about here. We're talking about as part of the training program, including among the options postsecondary education, but that doesn't mean we go in and pay the tuition. It doesn't mean we go in and pay the fees. It means that the support mechanism there, in terms of the cash payment and the other things that go along with welfare, can be there for this mother and child or children if she goes on to higher education and it's her responsibility, essentially, to find the resources to pay for higher education, so we're not paying for that. This doesn't call for that. We're just saying among the training options this should be one of those options, and let me tell you, if you had a chance to talk to some of the recipients of welfare that have been meeting with us and talking to us over the past couple of years, many of them are postsecondary education students. Some of them have, in the time that we've