

workers will be able to use, those people who are meeting with their clients, and looking at how to access the good-paying jobs in Douglas County. And so with that, I know that...I don't see Senator Day right now, but I know that she's been involved with this issue too, and I will close and ans...be willing to answer any questions anyone may have.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, this is a follow-up to the roundtable study. Among the different requirements last year, we also included that the Labor Department will supply to the roundtable base information on wages, job availability, job training across the state, so that we had a good base of knowledge on which to make decisions. You know, if we are going to go from welfare to the work force, we've got to work on that side of the equation as well in trying to know exactly where jobs are available, what kind of wages and benefits, and know the conditions that we are moving toward in taking people off the welfare system. So it is a base of information that was to have been done last year. The Labor Department did not get the job done. This tells them to get the job done, and continue the effort so that we have a good base of knowledge on which to make decisions in the future. I'd seek support for the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, of all the things that we are doing which might be put in the category of wishing, hoping, and praying, this is one that does offer some concreteness. We have a state department under the Governor's direction. The Governor wants this bill, and I am sure he would like to have it achieve the objectives that his representatives on the floor say that it will. So by putting specific things into statute that we are looking for in the way of information, we have the opportunity for the first time to put together some substantive material from which conclusions can be drawn that will have more validity than all of our speculation. I am in support of what is being offered here because we do need to know which jobs are available. Even if they are not good jobs, we need to know the types of jobs that are available to the people in this state, and this beneficial undertaking will redound to the benefit and welfare of more than just the people who currently are on...are receiving public