

for having taken this step, and for having taken tax credits for having hired these individuals. So I'm saying that there is no penalty from INS for the hiring of these illegal aliens, I think the state, at least, in this regard in terms of tax breaks, ought to take the step of providing some penalty for having hired these individuals. So if the INS, if the federal government won't intervene and deal with the problem, it seems to me the state has some responsibility, at least in terms of the tax base that we have, to protect it from abuse and manipulation, as we've seen in some cases where some companies are getting tax credits, and then turn around and use those or benefit from the tax credits in hiring of illegal aliens. That is not why we created the tax credits. That's not what we intended. And in my view, we ought not to allow it to continue. In talking to people around my district, and elsewhere, in the city and the state, again, I think there is a lot of concern about this whole situation of tax credits used to bring in the illegal aliens and the credits being given to these companies. I think the public is not all that aware of this. They've seen very few articles, just the few on Excel, or what-have-you, but the public, when they do become aware of it, will become, I think, very angry and want to see something done about it by the Legislature, and I'm asking you to consider doing it now. I look forward to the discussion on the issue, and I hope you will consider it and support the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Brashear, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, point of order.

SPEAKER WITHEM: State your point.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, I object to the consideration of the amendment under Rule 7, section 3, part (d) as not being not germane. I would respectfully suggest this is not the specific subject matter of the bill, and that it is not one that relates sub...it does, in fact, relate substantially to a different subject matter.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I would invite you, Senator Brashear, if you could to very briefly state your rationale for challenging the germaneness. I will then allow Senator Wesely a very brief two or three minutes to respond to that, and then I will be happy to give my decision.