

other members of the committee that they agree with my opinion that she would not be entitled, at this time, to this money because she did take advantage of it and did not appear after initially seeking to withdraw from the union, because she took an active interest and involvement in the union. So this amendment strips out the money that was added in by the committee in the amount of \$785.98. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I want to extend my appreciate to Senator Abboud for looking into this further. Questions were raised about this committee action to approve this claim and I think he very well outlined why the concern is there that this not occur. Clearly, the opportunity was there to leave and it was not taken. And, as he indicated, there was a very awkward situation. So I think there's a lot of concern about this claim, and deleting it from the bill will be much appreciated. I stand in support of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I think that Senator Abboud very accurately described what happened in the hearing. As a member of the Business and Labor Committee who heard the testimony and who also voted to shift this claim from a denial to the committee agreeing to acknowledge it, I believe that I didn't have all of the information at the time to make a good decision on that. As we got the additional information about what happened, I think it's pretty much unanimous by the committee members, as Senator Abboud stated, that we now feel, with all of the information, that this claim should continue to be denied as it originally was. So I stand in support of the amendment to strip this part from the bill and then move the committee amendment and the bill as it is. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Mr. Chairman, members of the board, I stand in support of the...of the...what Senator Preister said and what Senator Abboud had brought to you, because we were obviously