

going on today is encouraging that, as a matter of state policy, in any significant manner. If 757 were not to pass, we would do nothing for this best of all strategies, making the workplace safer. LB 757 has this best of all strategies for all workers are part of it. Secondly, computer tapes, which are now, by law, unavailable to be run between the Insurance Department, the Department of Labor and the Workers Compensation Court, are authorized to be run. What will that catch? That will catch employers who are going bare. And they exist. Workers who are under selling their products have changed the cost structure of their goods and services in the marketplace because they are not doing what the law requires, and we are not now catching them. We have no good way of catching employers who are going bare on their workers' comp. We will be able to do a computer run, catch them, penalize them, and force them onto workers' comp and thereby guarantee their workers recovery should they become injured. I think that's a benefit. Another benefit that's in the bill is the creation of informal dispute resolution mechanisms, which would allow people who are unrepresented by lawyers, but to go in, have a beef and solve the problem. If they want to, they can also go in represented by lawyers. But if they go in pro se, they don't split the fee with anybody, they get all the...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...recovery themselves rather than 33 percent given to, or as high as 40 percent to a lawyer. If they do have a lawyer, none the less, it's possible to get the benefits faster. If you get the benefits faster it means the money can start working for you, and the sense of desperation and fear that workers have can go down. Currently, one of the problems in the system, which will be left in place if Senator Chambers had his way and 757 didn't pass, would be that we would have a slow system that required people, generally, if they get into a conflict, to have a lawyer that's going to take 33 percent of the take, and have the 47th lowest benefits in the country with no safety system designed to make the workplace safer. I think that's a lousy system for workers. I think what we have now is a lousy system. Lastly, there's an 800 number by which people who want to know their rights under workers' comp, who have questions, who want to know what they're entitled to and how to solve problems can call and get the court to give a response to that...