

and seen some abuse of the system, and it concerns them. They've expressed it to all of us I'm sure in the Legislature, and we have to be responsive to that. And this bill does deal with some of those abuses, and we are willing, though, at the same time to say that's not enough. Just doing the punitive, just cutting back on the benefits, that's not where we are at. We have got to turn around and enhance the ability of these recipients of welfare services to move into the work force, to move off of welfare. That's the dignity and the triumph that we hope to accomplish for all of these individuals in the future, and, again, I emphasize, there is much good in the bill, much good in the bill, and that would be repealed as much as whatever you could consider as the bad in the bill with this amendment, and we've worked long and hard trying to balance this out. Let's admit it, when the bill first came in, on the scales of fairness, you had a scale tipped...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...heavily toward a lot more negative than positive, but as the committee has worked, and as we've worked on General File and Select File, we've balanced it out. Now it is not to say it is heavily tipped the other way, all positive. We can't do that. I am sorry but at the same time it is much more balanced between the negative and the positive in the bill. Not a perfect bill, I will admit, much more work needs to be done, but certainly a bill ready to be advanced and I think to take the step of taking out all those sections and doing a study would certainly be a major step backward. I would ask you to oppose the Crosby amendment.

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

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Madam President, and members of the bill (sic), for many of the same reasons that Senator Wesely just expressed, I oppose this amendment although I, too, appreciate where Senator Crosby is coming from. However, I believe if we eliminate the middle sections of this bill, we will have no movement, no direction. We will just be back to talk again. What we have here is an opportunity to take some policies that we have listed out in this bill and say, okay, study groups, okay, round table, if we are going to say that people need to get off of welfare in two years or less, how are we going to make that happen? What relationship is there to minimum wage, and workers' comp, and unemployment? What is the relationship