

really haven't talked about changing that because if we don't have them all belong...it's just the fairer thing to do. They should all be there. I think everybody supports being in it. We haven't had any opposition.

SENATOR BARRETT: Okay, thank you, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: You bet, thank you.

SENATOR BARRETT: I think it is a start in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz, do you wish to have a word for us?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I've been on the Banking Committee for many years. This has been brought up on several occasions. It is probably the most important piece of legislation we've ever had. Most of the people that testified, during the interim study, were people that were in dire need of insurance coverage. It is the taxpayer that pays in the long run because those people, when they need and desperately need hospitalization or medical care, they turn to Medicaid or whatever. It is very sad that people with diabetes or a heart problem, or any type of disease cannot get, and they are willing to pay for, insurance coverage. This will make a great contribution to the health of the public by improving the access to insurance for an important segment of our population. I'm not just talking about the diabetics or the paraplegics. I am talking about many, many other diseases that are contracted, even from birth, and the parents cannot get insurance coverage for their children or the young adults. It was just very sad to hear them come in front of the committee and beg for something that can be done. They are willing to pay. All they want is hospitalization coverage. I think it is a great piece of legislation. I, too, also commend Senator Wesely.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on the bill? Anything further, Senator Wesely?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Mr. President, members, I'd like to thank Senator Barrett and Senator Labeledz for their support. I would like to again thank Senator Chizek and Senator DeCamp for co-sponsoring. I'd also like to tell you that