

to find a way to commit these people, and Senator Wesely has already pointed out over and over, and he's correct, that there are commitment procedures, don't define them as mentally ill, dangerous people. Do you know the only thing you have to do, based on this bill, to be a mentally ill, dangerous person if you are a drug abuser, mentally ill, dangerous person shall mean any drug abusing person who presents, then drop down to parenthetical two, a substantial risk of serious harm to himself or herself within the near future as manifested by, and go to line 21, evidence of inability to provide for his or her basic human needs, including food, clothing, shelter, essential medical care or personal safety. That makes you a mentally ill, dangerous person, you abuse drugs, you can't provide for your food and shelter, so you are mentally ill and dangerous. Suppose we wipe out drug abuse and say that you are out there on the streets of Lincoln and you can't provide for your health, your shelter, your food. They don't consider you mentally ill and dangerous then, but the same factors are there. You pose a harm or threat only to yourself. So why pick and choose individuals all similarly situated and cut that small portion out and say, these are now mentally ill, dangerous people. But you might find ten times as many similarly situated except they don't abuse drugs. So both of them are out there in the cold freezing...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...no home, no food, nothing, and the cops pick them both up. They say, aha, this guy uses marijuana, so he's mentally ill and dangerous. This other one is just poor. That is crazy. That is what indicates dangerous, mental illness to me. But I know the Legislature is not of a mind to hear these things this morning. I got it into the record. I am going to take a vote on my motion, though I know it is doomed to failure.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, do you wish to speak on the motion?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I would. Mr. President, members, I understand what Senator Chambers is saying. I'm glad that he's raising the issue. But I see the issue far differently than he does. The whole concept of the mental health commitment act isn't so much to take people off the street and commit them to get them out of our hair and away from