

problem. It gives them a range of options they do not now have. It isn't a range of options to harm or hurt or punish these people, but, in fact, to help them with the problem that they have in drug abuse. So the present statute that this repeals is not workable, it is cumbersome. In fact, what is happening is that these people, because they have to be cared for, are just being declared mentally ill and dangerous, and they are being cared for through the different services. It is worse than even what Senator Chambers describes this bill would be. That is to say somebody that is not really mentally ill but has a drug problem and thus is dangerous and falls under this act is then determined to be dangerous and mentally ill and placed in the different treatment programs that they need. This would take that away and instead say...well, not away completely, but instead define more clearly that these people are there because they have a drug abuse problem, that is why they are there. Again, I understand the terminology of mental illness for a drug abuser is not probably the best way to go. But the act itself, the Mental Health Commitment Act, is a good act in terms of its intent. The actual mechanics of it, the language of it, there are problems with and I recognize that.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: I am more than willing to work with Senator Chambers on looking at that concept of perhaps how we can change it. But this is not the bill or the vehicle to deal with it. It is not appropriate at this time to try and address all the variety of issues Senator Chambers raises. This is a bill that deals with one problem, a specific problem, with an appropriate solution. I would ask you to oppose the Chambers kill motion and to support the bill. I am more than happy to work with Senator Chambers on these other issues peripheral to this one. But I think this bill is important and there are very good reasons for adoption of it. I'd ask your support for it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich, do you wish to speak on the amendment?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, Mr. President. Would Senator Wesely yield to a question?

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely.