

may, in fact, end up being the case. If they are dangerous to themselves and the reason they are dangerous is because they don't feed themselves or what have you and it is a result of being out of control because of drug abuse, not being aware of their environment, I guess I could see that interpretation leading to the conclusion you reached. But, I don't know.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so I won't take too much time, for the record I'm going to read the words from the law so you'll see it's not an interpretation, it is what the law says. In line 10 on page 2, mentally ill, dangerous person shall mean any drug abusing person who presents, drop to line 18, a substantial risk of serious harm to himself or herself within the near future as manifested by, and then drop 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 is not an interpretation, that is what the law says. So what you are saying, if you pass this law, is that a drug abusing person by definition is mentally ill and dangerous if he or she cannot provide food, shelter, medical care, and so forth. I think that is a stretching and a perversion of the term mentally ill, dangerous person. We know that those words, that combination of words will constitute a stigma. Somebody who has been so stigmatized can say all they want to that I was addicted to drugs and that's why I went to the crazy house, and I know they call me mentally ill and dangerous, but I wasn't. And they say, yeah, I know, you are not crazy are you, and they say, no, and they say, I know. That is what they all say. But in complete seriousness I do feel that this bill is overbroad, it is using a very degrading form of terminology as a basis to drag some people into a social experiment. I'd like to ask Senator Wesely a question, although he's not a doctor. Senator Wesely, from being on the Public Health and Welfare Committee as long as you have, haven't you gathered enough information to know that if a person who is a drug addict has not determined that he or she is going to kick the habit, you can separate them from those drugs through physical restraint, but you haven't taken them off the habit.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, that is true.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So if you involuntarily lock somebody up,