

it's not all that clear to you. I can sure sympathize with that understanding. But I can tell you that the protections are there for these people. It's an attempt to recognize, through the Mental Health Commitment Act, that these people ought not be jailed, ought not be charged with a crime for the fact that they have mental illness, or the fact that they have a drug abuse problem or now with this bill, or an alcohol abuse problem. These are problems that ought not to be criminal activity, but, in fact, are problems that have been decriminalized by us and ought to be recognized as such. When they are decriminalized we've recognized that they can be treated, they can be helped, not punished. That is not the solution to their problem. That is why we have the act. That is why we are amending it. That is why the attitude is so different than what Senator Chambers is talking about. It is like looking at a piece of work, an art work, and Senator Chambers says, boy, that is ugly, and I say it's not a masterpiece but it looks better than you think it is, Senator Chambers. I understand the fact that it isn't perfect. But this bill is something that ought to be advanced and passed this session. It's an issue that, I think, is clear in terms of the handout that I've got, that I distributed from DPI. It shows the reasoning behind it. There is the justification for it. It isn't harmful to those people, as Senator Chambers wishes to represent. I, too, am very concerned about the poor and the disadvantaged, the mentally ill and the drug abuser. Those are the same kind of people I care about, as well. I wouldn't be here supporting this bill if I didn't think it was advantageous to their interest and fairer to all. I think this bill is. I have to ask you to trust that judgement if you have questions about it because I am not trying to mislead you. I am trying to raise a bill that I think is going to be beneficial to those people, and to the public. I'd ask your support for its advancement. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. Clerk, did you wish to be recognized?

CLERK: Well, Mr. President, I do have a motion that was filed after Senator Wesely was recognized to close, that is from Senator DeCamp. That motion is to refer it back to committee.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, did you wish to make a remark about it?