

want the Beutler amendment and won't vote for the bill without it. Much as I detest perhaps some of the changes being proposed, I think maybe the only way to save the bill is to go with the Beutler amendments. So I have a motion up there to reconsider the Beutler motions and will adopt the Beutler amendments and perhaps ease some of your concerns. This piece of legislation is not as it has been characterized by some people. There are always two sides to an issue. I don't fault Senator DeCamp and some people, and Senator Beutler, that said there may be some abuse. I don't know that, but it may, in fact, be the case. I also know another side to the story. That side of the story is state employees fear being revealed as being a source of information, and thus don't come forward with examples of waste, fraud and abuse. These individuals are afraid for their jobs, and thus afraid for their families. I've had many of you come up to me and say you know of these cases. Senator Higgins, you, yourself, have told me time and again of employees that have come to you and talked to you about problems, and they've been afraid of those problems, they've been concerned about those, but they've come to you, and they've come to me, and they've come to Senator Warner, and they've come to Senator Landis, and Senator Beutler, and Senator DeCamp, and all of us have had these individuals. As long as we don't have a protection for those individuals who are honest and decent people, who have a concern and want to express that concern, we will have them stifled and we will not find out the truth. It is time that we recognize that there is a legitimate concern out here. The federal government, the state governments, all levels of government need to recognize that there are employees with information that is valuable. Without some protection, some shield for these people, they are not going to come forward. So there is another side to the story that I don't think we've emphasized enough. I think if it takes the Beutler amendment to get some support for the bill, I'm willing to reconsider it. So I'm asking you to defeat the DeCamp kill motion, to allow us a chance to put the Beutler amendment on, and hopefully most of you will see the validity of the bill and will support it on Final Reading.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labeledz, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Question has been called. Do I see five