

the second and third year as it goes to 90 and 100 percent of the average weekly wage. The important thing is that the added cost of this bill is not going to be the 12 1/2 percent figure some people are talking about. The 33 percent figure Senator DeCamp said, Senator DeCamp said this is going to result in a minimum increase of 33 percent leaving the inference benefits across the board are going to increase 33 percent. That is simply not correct. It is simply it's just those workers that are at the top end of the scale by getting the cap up a little bit, and the cost is going to be what is shown on this handout from the National Council on Compensation Insurance, 1.3 percent for the first year, 2 percent for the second year and 1.2 percent for the third year. Now these are all in years of at least 3 to 4 percent inflation. So let's be careful about the figures and the statistics we use in inferring just what this increase represents. It represents a 1.3 increase in cost the first year and so on as I have indicated. So please understand that and please understand also that if someone is injured on the job, their workmen's comp compensation is not going to be the state's average weekly wage. It's not going to be 80 or 90 or 100 percent of the state's average weekly wage. It's only going to be two-thirds of that. It's going to be two-thirds of that because you start out with only being entitled to two-thirds of whatever your average weekly wage is, not the full amount. Even though you're injured usually through no fault of your own, even though you want to go back to work as soon as you can, even though you're simply a human resource as Senator Landis indicates that's been used up by our productive society and when that happens we need to take care of people, we need to take care of people and we take care of people by giving them two-thirds only of their average weekly wage, not the full average weekly wage. Thank you.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Hoagland. Senator Labedz, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Question.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate will vote aye, those opposed will vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.