

how many people were in there, what types of positions did you do, how many hours did you make them work, and, more importantly, what skills were you trying to give them to help them. You know, slave labor is not one thing that I condone. And indentured servitude is the type of legislation I don't condone. So, basically, what we're saying is if we're going to require this work for money that they technically are qualified for in the first place, the least we could do, of the departments who have had a past of abuse before, is require that they give us information of what they do. Quite honestly, if this amendment doesn't go on, and I do not think it is harmful to Senator Abboud's bill. Senator Wesely's been working with Senator Abboud. I don't know if they discussed it. I know Senator Wesely is in agreement with the amendment. We had it drafted this morning to put on the bill. Quite honestly, if the amendment doesn't go, then I'll move to bracket or indefinitely postpone 227, and I do not want this bill to advance to Final Reading without some type of protectionary amendment of this nature.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Is there anyone else wishing to discuss this amendment? Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: I have no intention of wanting to hold the bill, and we can move, in the event that Senator Abboud feels very strongly about this, when we do advance it to Final Reading, we can move to bring it back to Select File. I don't want to see the bill held up. A tremendous amount of work has gone into this bill over the past several years. I think the intent is not to take away dignity from people that are receiving general assistance, but to help them...to make them more useful as far as citizens are concerned in society. And I think this is what Senator Abboud is trying to do. With Senator Wesely's help, they have tried to put into this bill some education requirements, some things that I think are very meaningful. I will...I will vote against Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. I do, however, not wish to see the bill bracketed. In the event Senator Abboud or Senator Wesely is opposed to this, we can pull it back from Final Reading. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you like to close on your amendment? Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you like to close?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah. I would just like to reedify,