SCHEER: Morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the twelfth day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislative Session, Second Session. Our chaplain for the day is Pastor Jose Flores from Trinity Friedensau and St. Mark Lutheran Churches in Hebron and Ruskin, Nebraska, in Senator Brandt's district. Would you please rise?

PASTOR FLORES: Let us pray. Faithful God whose mercies are new to us every morning, we humbly pray that you look upon us in mercy and renew us this day. Keep safe our going out and coming in and let your blessing remain with us throughout this day. Preserve us and grant us peace. Almighty God, you have given us this great land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity. Bless our state, defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom that there might be justice and peace in our land, in our state. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful and in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. Heavenly Father, bless our Governor, his administration, also bless those who hold office in the Legislature of our great state of Nebraska that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, kindness, and justice. Help them use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote the general welfare of all our people. Bless the courts and the magistrates of our state. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding that they may receive the truth and administer the law impartially as instruments of your divine will. Bless all our schools, colleges, and institutes of higher learning that all will produce well-educated citizens for our state that will contribute to the general welfare. And finally, God of us all, bless all our people in cities, towns, and rural areas that we may all live together in unity and harmony. Bless our commerce, our industry, our agriculture that they may produce in abundance whatever is needed for the support of our lives. God bless us all. Amen.

SCHEER: Thank you, Pastor. I call to order the twelfth day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Colleagues, Senator Briese would like to welcome Lynette Kramer from Albion, is serving as the family physician of the day. She's located under the north balcony. Would you please rise and be recognized? Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr.-- Mr. President, on page 415, line 7, strike LB207 and insert LB297.

SCHEER: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, one item. A report from the Reference Committee for LB1163 through LB1221 plus LR300CA (Also LB1073, LB1149, and LB1156). That's all I have at this time.

SCHEER: Thank you. Mr. Clerk. We'll now proceed to the first item on the agenda.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, first bill LB880 offered by Senator Groene. It's a bill for an act relating to the Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act; to change the determination and certification dates relating to the distribution of aid, certification of budget limitations, and duties of the Appropriations Committee, to eliminate obsolete provisions, repeal original section, declare an emergency. The bill was introduced on January 9 of this year, referred to the Education Committee, placed on General File with no committee amendments.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Groene, you're welcome to open on LB880.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. LB880 is a bill that advanced from the Education Committee by an 8 to 0 vote. LB880 would simply change the certification dates for TEEOSA this year and this year only from March 1 to May 1. These dates are for certifying state aid, budget authority, and applicable allowable reserve percentages. This change of date is necessary so that we don't reach the March 1 deadline before the Legislature has had a chance to consider introduced legislation that modifies the TEEOSA formula. For example, LB974 introduced by the Revenue Committee. This change of certification date will allow the Legislature to make those decisions before we expend resources on certifying the formula only to redo it. This change of certification was done last year with LB430. In 2017 and in other prior years it was also done. This is standard practice when we have a situation that includes possible adjustments to TEEOSA. Thank you for

your time and I ask that-- for the advancement of LB880. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Cavanaugh, you're open.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask if Senator Groene would yield to a question.

SCHEER: Senator Groene, would you please yield?

GROENE: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: Senator Groene, I-- I have seen, as you mentioned in your remarks, that this date change has happened in previous sessions, including last year. And I am wondering why we're not permanently changing the date versus changing it every year.

GROENE: Well, we don't change it every year. My first two years down here, we didn't do it because TEEOSA formula wasn't changed-- funding wasn't changed. Because we want to give the school boards as much advance notice as possible so they can plan their-- their funding and their budgets for the following year.

CAVANAUGH: But changing the date, doesn't that give them less notice if we're changing it at a later date?

GROENE: But at least they know. Life isn't perfect. Sometimes you've got to adapt to the situation and they have known this, and in the past and they've worked with it in the past. They would rather have accurate numbers than to be told a number that drastically changes on them later.

CAVANAUGH: OK. I guess I'm not understanding why we-- if we're trying to give them more certainty, why we're changing the date some years and not changing the date other years. If we need this time, shouldn't we just change the date permanently so that we have the same date every year?

GROENE: No, because we wish to give them the information as quickly as possible, but that just doesn't work out in the rural world every time when we are dealing with budgetary issues in the Legislature.

CAVANAUGH: And we changed the date last year.

GROENE: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: In the long year when we do the-- the big budget.

GROENE: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: Shouldn't that be adequate? Should we not change it only in the long budget year if we're going to change it?

GROENE: I would rather allow this body to do what it does and to react to budgetary factors in the economy and in our tax rate. And then therefore, the school boards are part of the same economic system the whole state is in and they can wait just like we do as we debate issues.

CAVANAUGH: Well, if that's the case, then why not change it permanently so that we always have that time?

GROENE: Because the school boards, if they had their choice, they would like to get the number earlier. A certain date helps everybody involved.

CAVANAUGH: Right. But this-- but we're not operating on a certain date if some years we change it and some years we don't.

GROENE: No, we aren't.

CAVANAUGH: That's why--

GROENE: Well, in the real world, we would.

CAVANAUGH: That's why I'm asking why not just change it to allow ourselves more time in the future every year versus only sometimes.

GROENE: Because we try to make life easier for the school boards to give them a bigger window to negotiate union contracts, hiring and firing decisions, what they're going to do, what-- how much financing they're going to have. So we try to help them by pushing up the date as far as we can so they have more time, but it doesn't work that way every year. So sometimes we have to change it.

CAVANAUGH: OK, I guess I'm not quite in agreement with-- with how we're approaching this, but I appreciate you answering my questions.

GROENE: Thank you.

CAVANAUGH: I have looked over the years previous where we have done this and I have seen that--

SCHEER: One minute.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you. --that sometimes there has been no opposition and sometimes there has been opposition to changing the date. And I feel like this should be a broader conversation rather than constantly doing it as a one-off, but whether or not we should permanently change the date for when we are certifying TEEOSA seems like we're creating unnecessary uncertainty for our schools and also giving ourselves more latitude when we feel like it. And I'm not sure that that's the right course. So thank you for answering my question, Senator Groene.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Groene. Any others wishing to speak? Seeing none, Senator Groene, you're welcome to close on LB880. He waives closing. The question before us is the adoption of LB880 to advance to E&R Initial. All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SCHEER: LB880 is advanced. Colleagues, Senator McDonnell would like to welcome 20 members of the Nebraska Professional Firefighters Association sitting in the north balcony. Would you please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature? While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and here do sign LR296. Mr. Clerk, next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB310 introduced by Senator Vargas. It's a bill for an act relating to Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act; to provide a deadline for determination of the amount of tax credits; change provision relating to appeals and repeal the original sections. The bill was introduced on January 15 of last year. It was referred to the Revenue Committee, which placed the bill on General File with committee amendments.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Vargas, you're welcome to open on LB310.

VARGAS: Thank you very much, Speaker. Colleagues, LB310 would amend the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act by requiring the Nebraska Department of Revenue to complete an audit of a historic tax credit project within 60 days of receiving notice from the State Historical Society that a project has been completed and approved. In case you aren't familiar with it, I'll provide a brief background on the historic tax credit. Historic tax credit was initiated in 2015 on the Nebraska Job Creation and Mainstreet Revitalization Act and was intended to encourage investment in historic resources in both urban and rural communities. It provides a state tax credit of up to 20 percent of qualified rehab expenditures. Total tax credit funds available from the state are capped at $15 million per year and up to $1 million per project. Now, when a developer decides that they would like to start planning a project, they first submit paperwork to the Nebraska Historic Society, which then processes applications and allocates credits to qualifying projects. Generally, applications are reviewed within 30 days of receiving an application, which then lets applicants know whether or not the project qualifies for credits and does so in a relatively short period of time. Now, once a project receives approval from the Historic Society, the Department of Revenue reviews the expenditures that were made. However, there is no timeline or deadline for the Department of Revenue to complete the audit of expenditures. LB310 simply establishes deadlines for the Department of Revenue to complete audits of projects within a reasonable time frame within 60 days of receiving notice of project approval from the Nebraska Historic Society. Establishing a deadline for the audit will allow developers and investors in these projects know when to expect the credit to be issued very similarly to what we provide to taxpayers within the Nebraska Advantage Act. LB310 is something that we as legislators can do to simplify things for taxpayers, spur economic development in our state, and make sure we're following through on a program. The Historic Tax Credit program is one program that is clearly providing a higher than average return on our investment and just months ago, the University of Nebraska Lincoln Bureau of Business Research released a report highlighting the benefits of our Historic Tax Credit program. The benefits and the importance of the program cannot be understated, both from an urban and a rural perspective. Now, according to the report, the program has resulted in an economic impact of our state's economy on nearly $184 million, yielding more than the 2,400 full-time jobs and generally-- generating over $53 million in new wages for Nebraska workers. In addition, these projects contributed over $82

million to the state's gross state product and over $7.6 million in new state and local tax revenues. These numbers are cumulative projects between 2015 and 2018, and I would remind you that the tax credit is capped at $15 million of investment from the state. Fifteen million of investment from the state for an economic $184 million is incredible return for Nebraskans. I think it's important to highlight with these projects where they're taking place in neighborhoods throughout Nebraska and benefit in need of revitalization, including the neighborhoods in my district, as well as Chadron, Columbus, Fairbury, Grand Island, Hastings, Lincoln, Pender, and Red Cloud. I'll end there and simply ask for your green vote on LB310. I want to thank Chairwoman Linehan and the members of the Revenue Committee for supporting this bill. This bill came out 6-1, and for helping to make sure that we provided a way to then fund this with the amendments that make it neutral in terms of cost to the General Fund. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Vargas. As the Clerk noted, there is a committee amendment from the Revenue Committee. Senator Linehan, as Chairman, you're welcome to open on your amendment.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. AM739 to LB310 adds a fee of .275 percent that will be paid by the developer. The fee is to offset the credit amount allowed under LB310. And this was to eliminate the fiscal note on the green copy of the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Linehan. And there is an amendment to the committee amendment. Senator Vargas, you're welcome to open.

VARGAS: Yes, this is AM2099, so thank Chairwoman Linehan for introducing the amendment. This is basically expanding on that amendment. This amendment adds a surcharge that would be paid by developers. It's the same surcharge, it's just expanding it. We hoped that the original amendment would cover the costs of .5 FTE for the Department of Revenue stated that it was needed in LB310. However, when conversation with the department, they let us know that the surcharge in the committee amendment would not quite cover the costs, which is just about $28,000. This AM2099 marginally increases the surcharge from .275 percent of the credit amount to six-tenths of one percent of the credit amount. AM2099 also specifies that the surcharge amount be remitted to the Department of Revenue Enforcement Fund, which would allow the department to defray the costs incurred to implement LB310. I ask for your green vote for AM299 [SIC] and the

underlying committee AM739 and thank the members of the Revenue Committee and Chairwoman Linehan. Again, thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Vargas. Going to floor discussion, Senator Groene, you're recognized.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. You may note that I voted no on this bill. And I understand what Senator Vargas is doing. He's just cleaning up, trying to "expediate" the process. But I have a real problem with Historical Tax Credit in the first place. Many of you don't realize, or most of you do 'cause you're learned, but any person means that any natural person, political subdivision, limited liability company, partnership, private, domestic or private foreign corporation or domestic, a foreign nonprofit corporation can apply for this. So what we are doing in the case-- there's been a case where a courthouse was a historical county courthouse was a historical site and they redid their spire on top and taxpayers and tax credit was issued. Sold-- they sell them on the open market, these credits and get 70 to-- percent or so on the dollar for them. So somebody like a wealthy individual buys them, the credit for 70 cents on the dollar, but he gets to take a dollar off his taxes. And we have nonprofits doing it. They don't pay taxes, folks. They don't pay income taxes, but we're giving them a tax credit. It's subsidizing some local governments with income and sales taxes. It's also the taxpayers involved in charitable work and nonprofits when they might not disagree with the project. The other thing is, and I thank God for sunsets, this thing sunsets on December 31, 2022. So I don't know if it's necessary to do this because in a couple of years it's going to be gone anyway and disappear. And the credits can only-- can be used up if you buy them early. They can be used up through 2027. But I was going to ask Senator Vargas a question if he would yield.

SCHEER: Senator Vargas, would you please yield?

VARGAS: Yes, I would.

GROENE: I'm not filibustering this. I'm just pointing out some-- some facts, because it's-- it's just speeding up a process. But how long-- I'm sure you did your research, how long is it now taking the Department of Revenue to certify the information?

VARGAS: So it depends on the different case. But we have examples of individuals saying that it's taking upwards beyond the 60 days,

somewhere up to 9 months to then get the credits out, which is, to your point, your words before we want to "expediate" this. So this is efficiency of a program that exists.

GROENE: But I believe when I remember the-- the testimony, it's not always Department of Revenue's fault. A lot of times they're not getting the full information from the applicant. Is that-- was it not that what we heard?

VARGAS: I can't speak to the exact, what you might have heard. But what I'll say is, if the Historic Society has already approved the work, the work has already been done. What we simply want to make sure is that the receipt of the credits, which are then being audited by the Department of Revenue, are happening within a timely manner. And 60 days aligns very much with the Nebraska Advantage Act and with the Historical Society also holds themselves accountable to. So we didn't want to set a new standard, we just wanted to set a similar standard.

GROENE: All right. Thank you. As I said, you're just trying to "expediate" the process and not prolong it or add to it, so. But it's been abused like most of these--

SCHEER: One minute.

GROENE: --programs where now government entities are starting to use the state revenues to do what they should be managing their budgets to, to keep up their facilities. And then, like I said, nonprofits, we already give them plenty of tax freedom and that we don't need to pay them to do their-- their nonprofit work. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene and Senator Vargas. Colleagues, I'd like to welcome two guests of mine from Norfolk, Nebraska, John and Cindy Dinkel, seated in the north balcony. Would you please rise and be welcomed by the Nebraska Legislature. Thanks for coming down. Return to floor discussion, Senator Clements, you're recognized.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. I-- in looking at this, I had some questions also for Senator Vargas.

SCHEER: Senator Vargas, would you please yield?

VARGAS: Yes, I would.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Senator. I was curious about the 60 days, 60 days plus the possible 30-day extension. That seems fairly short to me and do you know why 60-day was picked rather than 90 or a little longer?

VARGAS: Yes. Thank you, Senator Clements. So the 60 days was picked and I don't want to repeat myself, but just for clarity to align with what we do with other tax credit programs, so for the Nebraska Advantage Act it was 60 days as well. Historical Society is also held to a similar standard of number of days and so we wanted to make sure that there was some parity with the deadlines so we can get to the necessary projects.

CLEMENTS: And does the Department of Revenue have to audit every project?

VARGAS: The Department of Revenue has to audit every project.

CLEMENTS: All right. Well, if they have several projects lined up, I'm not sure that they can really get this. And if they run out of time, if they don't meet that standard of up to 90 days, then is it saying that automatically the credit is approved?

VARGAS: Yes. If it's during a specific amount of time, automatically the credit will be approved. But one thing to keep in mind, the Department of Revenue came in neutral on this. They requested a .5 FTE, which we thought was fair. So we talked with all the different parties and the solution we found to make sure that we were meeting their request for .5 FTE so that we can get to all those applications or the audits, we funded through the credits themselves, and that makes it cost neutral.

CLEMENTS: Though this .6 percent surcharge then is going to cover that extra manpower?

VARGAS: Yes, people power.

CLEMENTS: And when does the Historical Society approve the project? Is it before construction or after?

VARGAS: It's before construction.

CLEMENTS: Before. All right. I was noticing that, you know, a $1 million credit is going to be resulting from a $5 million project. And a $5 million project is going to have a lot of invoices to have to

audit, and audit every one making sure it was all part of the right project and for the right purpose. So I'm a little uncomfortable with the 60 days, but I appreciate knowing that it is matching what the tax incentive ad-- Advantage Act. And I'm glad to hear that the Department of Revenue thinks they could work with it. I think we'll have to monitor this and make sure it's working properly. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. Vargas.

VARGAS: Thank you very much, Senator Clements.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Vargas and Senator Clements. Senator Bostelman, you're recognized.

BOSTELMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nebraska. Good morning, colleagues. As I went through looking at the fiscal note, I'm going to read a little bit my concern or question on this. And when we get to the end, Senator Vargas, perhaps we can have a conversation about it. And specifically on the-- on the fiscal note, on the second page, and second paragraph, it states this: Thus as written, it is likely that this bill will require the department to determine expenditures, calculate credits, and issue certificates before the department has the necessary information to perform these duties. Based on past experience, this could be approximately 50 percent of all applications for credits. Additionally, LB310 does not provide a tolling provision which provides-- which provides time for the taxpayer to collect information to send to the department. Consequently, LB310 would likely increase the number of denials due to a lack of records and/or information necessary to approve the credits. So I was wondering if Senator Vargas would yield to a question.

SCHEER: Senator Vargas, would you please yield?

VARGAS: Yes, happy to, Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: So looking at this, I understand what you're trying to do. Is it-- my concern with, with what we're looking at here is as what the department's saying is that they may automatically deny if they're within that 60-day window or that 90-day window because the applicant does not have all the information to provide them, so they automatically deny. So is there a way perhaps to amend something into here that would-- that would address that issue or that concern?

VARGAS: So, I'm going to say this. I was seeking to not put too much more into this that would mandate what the department does in regards

to the process. This is a bill that we actually introduced in my first year. We've been working on it for about two and a half, three years now. And the real concern that we were trying to solve was capacity. I think the-- all the developers and/or people applying that contacted us understand that there is some risk to denials. I think this is putting it on the individual applying, but ultimately having some mutual accountability with there might be denials, but there also is going to be a deadline of Department of Revenue means that both parties are taking some level of responsibility and on how to-- how to make sure there's a successful process.

BOSTELMAN: I understand that. I'm just kind of curious if-- if the clock would start ticking once the completed application has been submitted. In other words, they have all of the information. So then department, then they can actually-- actually process it because otherwise are we setting some folks up just to be denied just because they didn't have this form or that form?

VARGAS: Yeah.

BOSTELMAN: That's kind of-- that's where I'm going with us.

VARGAS: Yeah. Yeah. So all the information is sent from the Nebraska Historical Society to the Department of Revenue. So what we're simply-- this isn't going to be like more wait time because the information's already transmitted from the Historical Society to the Department of Revenue.

BOSTELMAN: So perhaps a comment could be made or we could put it on the record. The intent would be that the applicant has all of the information completed in order for the-- the department to properly adjudicate or review it to make a decision within the timeline. The intent would be that if you apply, you basically have all your receipts, you have everything in line that you need for them to review it to make a decision one way or the other.

VARGAS: I appreciate you saying that. Now, it's in the record and I'm sure there are entities that apply for this that are listening and take that under their account.

BOSTELMAN: OK. Thank you, Senator Vargas.

SCHEER: One minute.

VARGAS: Thank you very much, Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: Yep.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Bostelman and Senator Vargas. Anyone else wishing to speak on AM2099? Seeing none, Senator Vargas, you're welcome to close on AM2099.

VARGAS: Thank you, everybody. Again, LB2099 is an amendment on to the AM739, the committee amendment. It just expands the surcharge that comes from the credit. This is a revenue neutral amendment to make sure that the Department of Revenue has the necessary staff to then be able to process the applications that are coming to them through this program. I ask for your green vote on AM299 [SIC], AM739, and LB310. And thank you again.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Vargas. Question before us is adoption of amendment, AM2099 to the Revenue Committee amendment, AM739. All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 34 ayes, 2 nays on the adoption of the amendment to committee amendments.

SCHEER: AM2099 is adopted. Returning to discussion. Seeing no floor discussion, the question before us is adoption of AM739. Senator Linehan, you're welcome to close on the men-- the amendment. She waives closing. The question before us is adoption of AM739 to LB310. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 34 ayes, 2 nays on the adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SCHEER: AM739 is adopted. Returning to floor discussion. Seeing none, Senator Vargas, you're welcome to close on LB310.

VARGAS: Just want to thank everybody. And again, your green vote on LB310, make sure that we are improving some efficiency within this program. And I'm thankful for all the partners for working on this the last couple of years to make sure that we're supporting economic development through this program. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Vargas. The question before us is advancement of LB310 to E&R Initial. All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 32 ayes, 1 nay on the advancement of the bill.

SCHEER: LB310 is advanced to E&R Initial. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB310A introduced by Senator Vargas. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations to appropriate funds to carry out the provisions of LB310.

SCHEER: Senator Vargas, you're welcome to open on LB310A.

VARGAS: LB310A is very simple. We created that surcharge earlier and LB310A simply takes the-- what is going into the surcharge for the specific cash fund that's going to-- going to this specific program, the Department of Revenue, to then cover the costs. So this, what you just voted on before, we do need this to then be able to make this cost neutral.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Vargas. Looking to floor debate-- discussion, seeing none, Senator Vargas, you're welcome to close. He waives closing. The question before us is advancement of LB310A to E&R Initial. All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 30 ayes, 1 nay on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SCHEER: LB310A is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk for items.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB731 and LB534 to Select File, both with E&R amendments. Amendment to be printed: Senator Bolz to LB813. Senator Kolterman has selected-- of the Retirement Systems Committee, has selected the LB1054 as a priority bill. Report on gubernatorial appointments from the Natural Resources Committee. Notice the committee hearings from General Affairs, Banking, Appropriations and Urban Affairs Committee. And a motion from Senator Wayne to rerefer LB1046 to the Urban Affairs Committee. That will be laid over. That's all I have at this time.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Next item on the agenda.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB518 introduced by Senator Linehan. Its a bill for an act relating to Health and Human Services; to adopt the Support for Trafficking Survivors Act; to create an office, a board, and a fund; to state intent regarding appropriations; and to repeal the original sections. The bill was introduced on January 22 of last year, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee. That committee placed the bill on General File with committee amendments.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Linehan, you're welcome to open on LB518.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. The intent of LB518, the Support for Trafficking Survivors Act is to prevent, identify and respond to the crime of sex trafficking in Nebraska, and to support the safety, well-being and economic stability of its victims. LB518 would formalize a statewide plan for trafficking services, provide funding for this plan, and support law enforcement to more successfully investigate and prosecute sex traffickers. The Legislature has made incredible strides since 2006 when we passed our first trafficking law. Last year this body increased the statute of limitations for all human trafficking crimes, authorized wiretaps for human trafficking investigations, and mandated that DHHS use specialized screening tools to identify child trafficking victims and investigate all reports of trafficking of a minor even if the tracker-- trafficker is not a parent or guardian. Thank you to Speaker Scheer, Senator Pansing Brooks, Senator Quick, and Senator Slama for leading and prioritizing these evers-- efforts over the last several years. The next step in this work is to create a clear plan for services to ensure those who have been sexually exploited have a-- have the safety, well-being and economic stability they need across the state. Evidence from other successful jurisdictions across the country has shown that when we invest in services, it is not only an investment in safety and healing for the survivors, but it is an investment in making our communities safer by increasing trafficking prosecutions. LB518 is that next step to begin to ensure survivors of sex trafficking have access to services across the state and that law enforcement has access to the funding for trauma-informed and victim-centered trafficking investigations, operations, and prosecutions. Unfortunately, our current system often criminalizes those it should be protecting. Here's an example of how-- to show you how this works or really doesn't work. A young woman who, for today's purposes I will call

Jenna, suffered abuse as a child, was in the child welfare system, and then eventually recruited by her trafficker. Law enforcement identified Jenna during a trafficking operation. As Jenna interacted with officers, she responded as many survivors experiencing trauma do. She was scared to comply with law enforcement as a result of the fear of her trafficker. Law enforcement was worried for Jenna, who they suspected may be a victim of sex trafficking. Without sufficient victim resources, law enforcement had limited options in their response. So Jenna was arrested on prostitution charges, believing criminal detention could be at least-- could at least provide her some safety in the absence of adequate resources and safe housing. Law enforcement officers were hopeful that perhaps after a night in jail, she would tell them she was the victim, only she didn't. The next day, Jenna's trafficker bailed her out. Jenna was more distrustful of law enforcement and her cycle of trafficking continued. This is not the right response. I know from my friend, dear friend, Sheriff Dunning, this is not the response that law enforcement wants to use. Instead of arresting Jenna, she could be connected to services by law enforcement. This is a promising traffic response model popping up across the country in states like Minnesota, Washington, Oregon and others. All of these states have invested in services on providing law enforcement an alternative to arresting victims. As a result, trust between victims and law enforcement increases, cooperation increases, and pro-- prosecutions for traffickers increase. Having invested in services, the state of Minnesota has increased charges of sex traffickers by 100 percent and increased convictions of sex traffickers by 500 percent in just 5 years. Nebraska needs a plan for how to make this happen in our state. LB518 creates a Trafficking Survivors Advisory Board to develop, oversee, and coordinate a statewide multiagency trafficking response, primarily through the creation of a state plan and strategies to address the provision of supportive services for victims. Board membership includes trafficking survivors, service providers, and representatives of law enforcement and criminal justice system. The bill also creates the Office of Support for Trafficking Survivors within the Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate and implement the state plan developed by the advisory board, building a no wrong door response for victims idented through-- identified through child welfare, juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. Alongside the state plan, LB518 creates a comprehensive grant program for trafficking victims services across the state. And when money is put into this program, it will be the first time state funding has been invested to support victims of this

horrendous crime. However, for this work to move forward in a meaningful way, we must find a secure funding to carry out the original intent of LB518. Without funding, the provisions of this bill will be hollow, creating a new state structure that would be incapable of following through on its plan. So today, I'm asking for your support in advancing this important bill while we continue to work to find resources to support it. We've made incredible strides in our state, but without an investment of LB518, victims will continue to be arrested for their own abuse and exploitation, charged with prostitution, and held in police custody for their own safety because we lack enough services to otherwise provide for their safety. If we are able to advance this bill and fund it correctly, this bill will help build a strong system response to successfully fight this crime in our state. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: As the Clerk stated, there is a committee amendment from the Health and Human Services. Senator Howard, as Chairman, you're welcome to open on the amendment.

HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. AM899 is a-- is a very technical amendment, but I'm going to walk through all of the provisions of it. It replaces the green copy and becomes the bill. Section 10 of AM899 strikes the appropriation for the two funds originally created under the bill, the Support for Trafficking Survivors Fund and the Human Trafficking Investigation Assistance Fund. Without the appropriations, the competitive grant program for supportive services for victims created by LB519 becomes contingent on the availability of public or private funding. Similarly, all requirements related to that grant program are contingent on public or private funding becoming available, and language is inserted in several sections accordingly. The reference to the start of the grant program in 2020, originally found from LB518, Section 7 (5) is also removed. The advisory board's reporting requirements and the requirements that the board contract with an independent consultant to evaluate the state plan are also made contingent on funding. The two funds created in LB518 are also changed. Under AM899, the existing Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Fund would become the fund for supportive-- supportive services and treatment for victims of human trafficking. This replaces the Support for Trafficking Survivors Fund that was newly created under the green copy. Under AM899, the Sex Trafficking Investigation Assistance Fund would be newly created to reimburse state or local law enforcement for the expenses associated with victim-centered trauma-informed investigations, operations or

prosecutions, and it will be administered by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. AM899 removes the antidiscrimination provision for grantees originally found in the green copy. It also amends the language in Section 7 (3)(b) to require that grantees allow the persons being served the free practice of the religion of choice. And finally, the coordinator position for the Office of Support for Trafficking Survivors, which was required under LB518, Section 4 (1) is eliminated. That position is also removed from the list of advisory board members, and as the chairperson of the advisory board. Under AM899, the board will elect a chairperson. This amendment was-- the amendment and the bill was advanced from the committee with 6 ayes with l member absent. There was no opposition testimony and I would urge its adoption on the floor today. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Howard. Mr. Clerk, for a motion-- or amendment.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the committee amendments with FA92.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open on FA92.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to take some time on this bill. I favor the bill. I think it's late in coming. Decades ago, when I wore a younger man's clothes and came down here, I persuaded the Legislature to pass a bill that would allow a prostitute to testify against her pimp without facing any blowback from the law as a result of that. Times have changed. People's views have become more enlightened. But there is a history this country has and this bill brings it out. I'm going to read my amendment. There will be a new subdivision on page 1. It would be the letter-- small letter (g). "It is appropriate to recognize and acknowledge some of the more renowned members of the All-American Pantheon of Human Traffickers." Notice I didn't say human sex traffickers, that is to be presumed. But because I may need to offer amendments to be able to talk, that's one of the amendments that I will offer to insert the word sex. Members, more renowned members. Number one, George Washington. They call him the father of his country and we say the father of every black person named Washington. And when you see the name Washington attached to anybody's name in this country, nine out of ten chances that person will be black. If you watch football games, any player with the last name of Washington is

black. For white people to talk about these men who own these black women being humane, they are out of their minds. If a black man did to a white woman what these white men did to black women, the most horrendous tortures would have been inflicted because such tortures were inflicted on black men who had not done what these rascally, ratty, no good, sin-cursed devils, with blue eyes in most cases, such as George Washington, had done. You all honor these people. You have a very soiled history that you hide from the children in the schools. When Senator Slama brought her bill last session and she was praised so much for it dealing with civics, I wanted to add language to point out that George Washington was a slaveholder. My colleagues were not interested in full disclosure. They were not interested in transparency. They were interested in continuing the false image of this low-down, immoral reprobate. Number two, Thomas Jefferson, another president. And if I'm not mistaken, he, although he copied a lot from British documents, is given credit for primarily authoring a piece of literature that started: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. To procure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever a government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the people's right, it is their duty to alter it or abolish it and provide new guards for the future security. How could Thomas Jefferson, in scolding the British, say that all men are created equal, but he owned black men? I used to say like a cow, pig or a chicken, but I have to change that because they had laws against doing to cows, pigs and chickens what these slaveholders did to black people. Cows, pigs and chickens had more rights and more protection under white racist laws than black human beings. And I'll be digressing and I'll always come back to the subject. You all talk about how white people fought for the freedom of black people. That's a separate discussion. But to point out and get ahead of that story, Abraham Lincoln had said to some of these white racists who said that black men should not be allowed to fight for the Union, that if this Union gave up every foot of land that black soldiers had won for the Union and now hailed for the union, the union could give up the effort because it would be lost in three weeks. Black men provided the balance of power in the Civil War, which would have been lost had black men not fought. Black men have fought in every war of this country, beginning with the Revolutionary War. Some were impressed into service as soldiers. You know how else, what other methodology

was used to get black men in this war that white men were waging, which was treasonous against their king, these white devils would force these black men as slaves to take the place of these cowardly devils and their devilish sons among the ranks of the American revolutionary troops. And all this white racist devil had to do was certify that he would give an equivalent number of black slaves in order to allow him and his children to be exempt, and they got the exemption. A guy whose last name was Closen, Baron Closen, studied war, wrote about things, mention the sizable number of black men among the ranks of the troops that the American Revolutionary Army had. You all didn't know black men fought in your Revolutionary Army, did you? While being held slaves fighting purportedly for freedom. But here is what George Washington and some of the other devils did. If black men would fight for this country, they would be given their freedom. But when their services were no longer needed, that promise was reneged on, not only by Jefferson, not only by George, but also by Andy, Andrew Jackson. All of them made that promise, then backed off. And these black men in every instance were fighting for freedom, which they were denied by these white devils. And they are devils. Only devils can do the types of things that these white racists that you all honor, whose names I shall give you, had done knowingly, openly, notoriously. And now you bring a bill here on sex trafficking, but you don't mention the ones who made it honorable. Why don't you--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --honor those who made it all possible in this country and set the gold standard? These were the ones that you are passing a bill against today, but you won't even let them be spoken against in the classroom. Stop speaking against Hitler. Stop speaking against Eichmann, Bormann, Kaltenbrunner. Stop speaking against Auschwitz. They're having a celebration during this period, maybe the main one today to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the extermination camp Auschwitz by the Russian Army. But black soldiers liberated some of these camps, too, and the Jews refer to them as black angels because they had never seen black men before.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: You didn't know black men did that, did you? Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Ben Nelson [SIC] would like to welcome guests, approximately 20, from ABATE of Nebraska. They are located in the north balcony. Would you please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature? Thanks for coming down this morning. Senator Pansing Brooks, you're recognized.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, Nebraskans. Our state's unique motto is equality before the law, so know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey and whomever you love, we want you here. You are loved. And so in that vein, I want to talk about some of the victims who are also loved Nebraskans, people that-- that really are struggling and need-- need our help and support. In the past years, our Legislature has tackled human trafficking head-on. I'm so proud to have been part of this amazing effort on behalf of the Legislature. In 2015, we expanded definitions. In 2016, we provided legal immunity from prostitution charges for victims of human trafficking. In 2017, we imposed tougher sentences on sex buyers and traffickers, decreasing supply and demand of sex trafficking victims, and bringing violent criminals to justice. In 2018, we passed a bill to allow survivors to access a process by which they could come forward with a conviction they received as a result of their being trafficked and get damages. Last year, Senator Slama and I worked together on a package that clarified that child victims of trafficking may receive services through DHHS and we allowed for a process whereby victims of trafficking could receive civil damages and we increased the statute of limitations for committing trafficking or benefiting from trafficking. LB518 is the next important step. I want to remind you that we have heard that prostitution is the oldest profession in the world, when actually what we have learned is it's the oldest myth in the world. We know that most of the people who are trafficked and who are victims of traffic are not in control of their identification, their money, or their housing. These people are true victims and have, as we have heard time and again, a type of PS-- PTSD of the most severe-- in the most severe qua-- quantity. LB518 is important. It's time to get serious about funds for trafficking victims, not just because they need the support, but also because resources for trafficking victims make it way easier for law enforcement to prosecute traffickers. So I hope that you will vote for this next step in our work to have-- we have gone from an F-rated state by Polaris and by Shared Hope nationally, and now we're ranked an ace-- an A-rated state in both-- in both organizations. We should all feel good about that. So the next step is helping to protect these

victims, these people who have been raped multiple times, who've been-- who've had their lives destroyed. And we need to work hard together and support AM899, and Senator Linehan's LB518, which will help provide a fund which will allow public and private entities to be able to give money to help support these victims. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. I would like to correct my earlier statement. The ABATE members were in-- the guests of Senator Ben Hansen, not Senator Ben Nelson. A little change there. So just want to correct the record. So Senator Hunt would like to welcome the following guest, Senator Temi Onayemi, is her new intern, a UNL student. He's seated under the south balcony. Would you please stand and be recognized? Thank you. Senator Hunt, you're recognized.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Nebraskans. Good morning, colleagues. I am in strong support of LB518 and I'm-- I'm grateful for what Senator Linehan has done and also for what Senator Pansing Brooks stood up and talked about, about the history of this bill recently and how much they've gone through to get this out. And I think it's a great thing that we finally have it here for us to, you know, move on to the next round today. And this is also I felt a good time for me to-- to stand up and talk about another issue for the purpose of showing Nebraskans and letting the record show that the Legislature was aware of something that was going on, and not all of us went along with it. In the past year, I spoke a bit on the floor about the issue of undocumented immigrant separation at the border and immigrant detention at the border. And as of October 2019, so these aren't the most current numbers, but over 6,000 children at the border have been separated from their parents. And a recent development that I became aware of that made me even more distressed about this is that many of these children, about 100 of these migrant children at least who have been separated from their parents, have been sent into the care of an adoption agency. And so we have reason to think now that a lot of these kids are potentially going to be adopted out. The former head of the U.S. Customs and Immigration and Customs Enforcement under President Barack Obama warned the press that many of the children who had recently been separated would remain separated permanently and would probably be adopted. And we also have reports that have surfaced of mothers who are detained, who have been told that their children would be adopted as an incentive for them to behave. We know that the threat of adoption of these children of many immigrants who have come into our country legally seeking asylum, their children have been

taken away from them illegally, are now going to be adopted out potentially to other people in other countries with no record of where they've gone or-- or where their parents are. And conservative figures who are hostile to immigrant families like people on Fox News, Laura Ingraham, who herself is an adoptive mother by the way, she says the detention of children is like summer camp and that we need to make the adoption of these kids easier for Americans. There's been a precedent throughout American history, like Senator Chambers talked about, of human trafficking, of sex trafficking. And those two things do go together. There are recent federal reports, reports from the federal government show that thousands of children held in ICE detention facilities experience sexual abuse and assault. And the records, which involve children who had entered the country alone or had been separated from their parents, detail allegations that adult staff members harassed, assaulted, raped these children, kissed them. It also includes reports of assault by other minors who are in custody. Would Senator Chambers yield to a question? Mr. President, would Senator Chambers yield to a question?

SCHEER: Senator Nambers, would you-- Chambers, would you please yield?

CHAMBERS: Yes.

HUNT: Senator Chambers, would you have any opposition to including Donald J. Trump in the list of people in your floor amendment?

CHAMBERS: Say it again.

HUNT: Would you have any opposition to including Donald J. Trump in the list of people on your floor amendment?

CHAMBERS: Oh, no, Donald J. Trump is the modern expected progeny of the sex traffickers that I have listed, so I would not object. He belongs at the head of the list now because he is in a position to know the history and he decided to replicate it. So not only should he be on the list, he should be at the head of the list.

HUNT: Thank you, Senator Chambers. My concern about this policy is that the focus--

HILGERS: One minute.

HUNT: --is really on the separation of the children. There's very little planning or foresight about the complex processes for family

tracing, for the human welfare of these kids. And Senator Chambers said that the people mentioned in his floor amendment made human trafficking honorable. But Donald Trump made it normal. And anybody in this body and anybody in Nebraska who votes for that man is complicit in the human trafficking that is currently happening at our border. Human trafficking needs to end in Nebraska, it needs to end worldwide. But we cannot be blind to our own hypocrisy and think that we're doing something that's going to help a lot of people who no one else seems to be speaking up or fighting for. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Hunt and Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, what Senator Hunt said is true. Not only are these children being trafficked, but they are being used as sex objects. There are organizations spotlighting these children, targeting them, and with the complicity of U.S. government officials, these children are being taken from their parents. Their parents will never see them again. They will never see their parents again, and you hypocrites won't even say anything about it. But I intend to, and throughout this session, I'm going to discuss your history with you. I cannot improve on, or need I add anything to what Senator Hunt put into the record, and it's into the record because nobody on this floor-- and that's an overstatement. Many of the people on this floor have no concern about or interest in this direction that the discussion has taken. See how empty the Chamber has become? Well, when they have their bills, I'm going to bring it up and empty the Chamber on their bills, and I'll repeat the same things that they did not hear today. You all have heard of a poem-- if you haven't heard the poem that begins, "Listen, my children, and you shall hear/ Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere." I won't even tell you the name of the white guy who wrote it. He was not a tall fellow, but there was another person who made that ride, and his name was William Dawes. So on the one hand, you know about part of it by what I cited: Listen, my children, and you shall hear of the midnight ride of Paul Revere. But it could have just as easily said, listen my children while I pause, and tell you the story of William Dawes. Paul Revere and William Dawes made that ride. They left going different directions to arrive at the same destination. And in that poem, it goes on to say, I have to tell and you "Listen, my children, and you shall hear/ Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,/ Twas the eighteenth of April, in Seventy-Five:/ Hardly a man is now alive/ Who remembers that famous day and year./ He said to his

friends, if the British march/ By land or by sea from the town to-night,/ Hang a lantern aloft in the belfry-arch/ Of the old church tower as a single-- signal-light,--/ One if by land and two if by sea;/ And I on the opposite shore will be,/ Ready to ride and spread the alarm/ To every Middlesex village and farm,/ For the country-folk to be up and to arm." What did you all think that ride was for? You all have heard of a man named John Hancock. I'm going to see if there's somebody on the floor acquainted with history who might know what John Hancock did, what document he signed. I see an educator on the floor. Notice I said, educator, not the pre--, not the head of the Education Committee. That would not fit him. I would like to ask Senator Kolowski a question if he would answer.

HILGERS: Senator Kolowski, would you yield?

KOLOWSKI: Yes, I would. Thank you.

CHAMBERS: Senator Kolowski, have you heard the name John Hancock before?

KOLOWSKI: Yes, I have.

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: There are two famous documents, the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. Are you aware of which one John Hancock signed?

KOLOWSKI: I believe I-- I do.

CHAMBERS: Would you tell which one you believe he signed.

KOLOWSKI: The Constitution.

CHAMBERS: We'll let people do their research, but let me ask you this. Whichever one he signed, is he famous for having signed it with a signature larger than everybody else's?

KOLOWSKI: Yes, he is.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. He wanted people to know, I am signing this document. But you know what John Hancock was at the same time? A slaveholder. Oh, you didn't know John Hancock was a slaveholder? When

you all praise and worship him, you didn't know he was a slaveholder? I didn't even put his name on the list.

HILGERS: Time, Senator. But you're next.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: You're next in the queue. You may continue.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. John Hancock will have his name on this list because as I said, I'm gonna take time on this bill and you all can run, but you can't hide. That is a famous boxing maxim. You can run, but you can't hide. And I will find you or your sins will find you out. But William Dawes went by one route. Paul Revere went by another route to warn John Hancock. They were not telling anybody, go get your guns and come out here and shoot the British. The British were going to arrest John Hancock. And Paul Revere and William Dawes went on their famous ride to find John Hancock and warn him so that he could escape. That's not what these young white people in this Chamber were taught. That's not what you old white people were taught because they have lied to you and they continue to lie to you and you do not read. But I read because these things affect my forebears and affect me today. You know how these things affect me today? Because I am viewed with the same negative view that my forebears had. I'm not viewed as a human being. I read in the paper a couple of days ago where a bank had to apologize to a black man who came to deposit money and they called the police on him. A black man had the police called on him. This was a few days ago and it was on national news. A black man in Detroit reached a legal settlement of a discrimination case. When he took the check to the bank, the bank refused to cash it. What white person has to deal with something like that? None of you. That's why you cannot understand what we talk about and why we're upset and I say the police are our ISIS. And I'm gonna show you information to let you know that. I'm going to give you information to show you that your current Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court and I have a history going back to when he was a Lancaster County Attorney. And some white cops from the Lincoln Police Department and the Lancaster County Sheriff's Department broke into a black woman's house without a warrant. The woman's daughter was pregnant. When they tried to stop the cops from coming in, they forced their way in. The mother who owned the house fell to the floor and hit her head. The daughter who was pregnant was body slammed. This was a matter of record. That's what these brave or cowardly white cops will do to us. Yes, they're my ISIS. Yes, they

will do things that ISIS had done if they could get away with it. And then you know what happened, because these two black women did not want cops breaking into their house without a warrant, and had asked for the warrant, they were charged with resisting an arrest and disturbing the peace in their own house. And when the woman who'd been knocked to the floor was taken to jail, yes, to jail, she began to vomit and she fell to the floor. And for 50 minutes lay in her vomit before a relative saw what was happening and called the officials and arranged for an ambulance to come get her. And she was in the hospital for five days. That's what these white law enforcement officers did.

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And I'm talking to you about these white sex, slack-- traffickers that this bill deals with, but does not mention. So I'm going to mention them and let you know what the fathers, so-called fathers of your country were about. And it's my responsibility as a black man to do that. And I will do it. And the place I should do it is in the midst of the white people, not in my community, where everybody would agree with me. But to come where my enemies are and face down my enemies and let them know I will go where they are and follow them and say it to their face alone, not carrying guns like Senator Halloran wants to do. He carries a gun. He said so. I don't carry a gun. I don't carry a knife. I'm older--

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --than anybody here. But I'll go where my enemy is and pursue it.

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to close on FA92.

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to show you all some lessons about your rules. I haven't finished what I want to say on this amendment because I've listed more than a half dozen of your renown historical sex traffickers. And I'm going to do it. How will I do it? Will I allow a vote on my amendment and the vote come back negative? I list myself as not voting. Then I immediately offer a motion to reconsider and we go through it again. That's what some of you who have observed the way I operate might think I'm going to

operate this morning. But if you're looking for me to come by land, maybe I should come by air. If you're going to cover the air entry and the land entry, maybe I should find a way to come in by water. You don't let your enemy know in advance how, when, and where you're going to attack him. You all have heard about the Maginot Line. It was not a wall. It was a series of fortifications. So if somebody-- let's make it for the sake of the discussion and you can get the imagery in your mind, a wall, a fortification to stop the enemy. It's so high, you can't get on-- over it, so low, you can't get under it. So what do you do? You go around it. You go around it. Some people think they're smart. They're impressed with their own, what they deem to be intelligence. But they're not as smart as they think they are. And there are others who watch them, analyze what they do, and will have a plan to whip them. Study how the game of chess is played. Read about some of the chess masters and some of them may play an entire game in their head before they move the first piece on the board. There are some chess strategies which are so renowned that they've been given names. And if you're going to be a good chess player, you learn these games and the moves. Chess is not the same as checkers or dominoes. Anybody can play those two. But there is a skill level connected with each of them. My skill level has to be higher than yours on the floor of this Legislature, or you would be able to put me in a box like I can put you all in a box. But since there is only one of me, I have to use my wits. So I am going to discuss this amendment exactly in the form that it's in right now. Again, before we get off this bill--

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --at this stage of debate, how am I going to take an amendment which would be voted down overwhelmingly, and then offer it again without having to do it by way of a reconsideration motion? Very simple. Mr. President, I withdraw this amendment.

HILGERS: Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator, oh-- Senator Chambers, you are recognized.

CHAMBERS: Oh, yes, you're not getting away that easy. Do you know what I can do now if I choose? Offer that series of amendments which will allow interminable discussion. Today is the 27th day of January of the year 2020. And I have in my hand a pad. If you are a wizard, you don't want to be paid as though you're a mere magician. I am neither a wizard nor a magician. I am simply one who has been in this Legislature and has read the rules, respects the rules, even the ones

that I deem to be asinine and will always operate in compliance with those rules. And by using those rules, I don't have to take a gun to anybody. I don't have to threaten anybody with a knife. None of that. Just stand here and take time. Edgar Allan Poe wrote a poem. He wrote many poems, but one was about the bells. See the sledges with the bells-- Silver Bells! is how he starts one of the stanzas, which I am not going to do, but there is a point reached where the words Keeping time, time, time/ In a sort of Runic rhyme/ To the tintinnabulation that so musically wells/ From the bells, bells, bells, bells,/ Bells, bells, bells--/ From the ringing and the jingling of the bells. So I have not spoken on the bill itself and I have three opportunities to do that. But what is before us is a committee amendment. And the committee amendment strikes all of the original language from what is called the green copy of the bill. The green copy is the form in which every bill is introduced. Sometimes you don't have a lot of time to get the bill in the form you want before you have it drafted, but you have to get something drafted, so you tell the Bill Drafter I want this that I'm submitting three parted. Then you sign those three, send them to the Bill Drafter and a green copy of the bill is printed. A hearing date is set. A hearing is had. And sometimes during that hearing, enough opposition or enough support, or a combination of the two, will make it clear that the green copy does not contain the kind of information and material that ought to go into the statute books as a law. So rather than go through that exercise of meticulously--

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --as I did with Senator Slama's bill, strike a word here, strike a word there, substitute here, substitute there, you simply use that formula, strike all-- and this is paraphrased, strike all the original provisions of the bill and substitute in their place this new document. And that's what we're dealing with now. And since the committee presented this to us, it is the committee amendment. I don't have to offer another amendment if I don't want to because we'll discuss the committee amendment. Maybe you all won't, but I can at least three times. Then that becomes the bill. And although we discussed all of that material while it was in the form of an amendment, when it is adopted and becomes the bill, there is now the opportunity to--

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --rediscuss it all because it's the bill. You said time?

HILGERS: Time. Yes, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. It was many and many a year ago,/ In a kingdom by the sea,/ That a maiden there lived whom you may know/ By the name of Annabel Lee; And the-- this maiden she lived with no other thought/ Than to love and be loved by me. I was a child and she was a child,/ In the kingdom by the sea,/ But we loved with a love that was more than love--/ I and my Annabel Lee--/ With a love that the winged seraphs of Heaven/ Coveted her and me. And this was the reason that, long ago,/ In the kingdom by the sea,/ A wind blew out of a cold, chilling/ a beauty-- My beautiful Annabel Lee;/ So that her highborn kinsmen came/ And bore her away from me,/ To shut her up in a sepulchre/ In this kingdom by the sea./ The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,/ Went envying her and me--/ Yes!--that was the reason (as all the men know,/ In the kingdom by the sea)/ That the wind came out of the cloud by night,/ Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee. Senator Chambers, I just want you to know that I'm listening to you, and my favorite poet is Edgar Allan Poe. And I love Annabel Lee. Also, your amendment that you pulled led me to look up Francis Scott Key. And there's an article in the Smithsonian magazine in July of 2016 talking about Francis Scott Key and his slaveholder-- slaveholding and writing the national anthem. And it's interesting that so many people have gone to see the production Hamilton, yet we don't talk enough about our slaveholding founding fathers. So I appreciate that you bring that up regularly here in the body. And I just wanted you to know that I'm listening and paying attention. So thank you.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Cavanaugh jumped the gun on me, in a sense, but my amendment does mention Francis Scott Key. Some people will give a person whose first name is Francis the nickname of Frank. Now if I mention Franklin James, you wouldn't know who that is; but if I said Frank James, you know. You know Francis as Francis Scott Key. The name Francis can

apply to a male or a fremae--, a female. If it applies to a man, then i-- it's c-i-s, the way it ends. If it's a female, c-e-s. So if you see F-r-a-n-c-e-s, that is a woman; F-r-a-n-c-i-s, it's a man, and if it ends with c-i-s and Scott Key follow it, you're talking about a slaveholder. A slaveholder. That rag, the Star-Spangled slaveholders' rag, will it be seen the next day or the land of the free? It wasn't talking about me, it's not my flag, or any of the black people. And there were some white people in virtual slavery in this country. There were some white actual slaves in this country, and there were some known as indentured servants who owed labor, and they're mentioned in the constitution, but not by what they are. It was not the land of the free for them. Was it the land of the free for the Native Americans who were chased off their land, who had smallpox infected blankets given to them by the white Christians with the intent of exterminating them? You all didn't know what a vicious racist Teddy Roosevelt was, but you find out if you read what he said about the Native Americans. You didn't know he was such a racist, did you? Because you swallowed the false information that white teachers give you in school where they teach you falsehoods. Then you'll go someplace overseas and try to discuss American history and they know more about it than you do and they laugh at you and mock. There was a man whose name was Lafayette. He was from France and he helped Americans win their Revolutionary War. But when he saw the slavery, he said, had I known what this country would have become, I would never have drawn my sword in the cause of this country. There was a British writer whose last name was Johnson. There were two of them. There was Ben Johnson and there was another Johnson. And I won't tell you his first name, but he talked about the slave-driving Americans, always yapping, yowling, and howling about freedom. And they have human slavery. They mocked this country. They mock it now with that idiot that you have for a President now who is so vicious I'm tempted to use the word that he used to describe African countries. I think I will.

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: I think I will. Then when I'm condemned, I'm going to ask you why you didn't use your-- condemn your president. You know what he said about Haiti and African countries? He called them s***hole countries. Your President called these countries where black people are, s***hole countries. He said it. Don't condemn me and you love him and you accept everything he did. Suppose I'd grabbed some woman's genitals, I'd go to jail. He did it and laughs at it, and you worship him. In order to use the language your great people use, I have to

violate my self-imposed rules for the kind of language that I will use. So I want you to know I was quoting your white racist President for whom I have no respect whatsoever.

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: You're next in the queue, Senator Chambers, and recognized. This is your third and final opportunity.

CHAMBERS: On this particular proposition, yes, you're right. But I have to create my own opportunities, which I shall do. I have a motion that I'm-- I'm wanting somebody to come up from the pages and take to the desk. Now I don't know if they told the pages, don't come, but I've turned my light on. I always play by the rules and every rule was put in place by you all. And many of them were put in place by you all to try to stop me. Don't-- don't feed a fire-breathing dragon gasoline and then wonder why there's a conflagration. I had touched on this liberation of Auschwitz by the Russian Army. There are disputes right now going on surrounding that celebration in Israel. Russia here, Poles there, Germans there, and as for Ukraine, you know, who-- have you all ever heard the term Treblinka? Treblinka was a notorious death camp. There was a Treblinka 1 and a Treblinka 2. Treblinka-- oh, you all don't read about these things, do you? I forgot. You study American history and they don't teach you anything except that George Washington was a patriot. And Francis Scott Key wrote the national anthem, but they didn't tell you he was a slaveholder and that George Washington was a sex trafficker. But in Treblinka 2, that was a work camp. The people there, Jews, had to provide building materiels for the Nazi regime, whose pledge was to rid this earth of the Untermenschen, which were the Jews, the subhuman ones, eradicate them, at least from Europe. And now people are talking about commemorating the liberation of Auschwitz. And Trump will chime in, never again, and that it'll never be forgotten. But they want me to forget what has happened to my people for generations, generations. And it continues today. Unarmed black men, unarmed black children, unarmed black women shot dead by white police and what we call Uncle Tom, Negro police, who are learning bad habits from these white cops. How many of you all think I could have a-- an apartment on the first floor and a white person has an apartment on the second floor? Now to get on the police force anywhere, you have to at least be able to count to two, I thought. Now this person on the second floor has a bright red rug in

front of his door. I go upstairs, and my apartment is on the first floor, but I sometimes get mixed up between one and two. And I go to this apartment where the bright red rug--

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --is in front of the door, and I don't have a rug like that in front of my door. And I go inside that door and I shoot somebody dead, and I say, oh, I thought I was in my apartment and I thought there was a burglar there, and virtually get away with it. That's what that white female cop did to this black man and got away with it. A black youngster in Chicago was shot 16 times by the police who lied and said he was attacking them with a little knife and all of the lying cops went along and told a false swearing that he attacked this cop. And a bullet wound showed he wasn't shot in the front, but that's what these white cops do. They hang together. Unarmed young black man shot down. Another was shot down in his grandmother's backyard because the cops said they thought he had a gun. No gun, nothing that looked like a gun, but he was black and the white cops said this is what they thought. So the white people said, well--

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Mr. Clerk for a motion. Senator Chambers, we have your motion. We have to dispose of the committee amendment first, since it's not a priority motion. That will come up after we do that. Senator Howard, you're welcome to close on AM899.

HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President. I would reiterate that AM899 replaces the green copy of LB518. It was advanced from committee with 6 ayes, with 1 member absent. There was no opposition testimony on the bill, and I would urge its adoption on the floor today. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Howard. Question before the body is the adoption of AM899. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of committee amendments.

HILGERS: The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk for a motion.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to indefinitely postpone LB518.

HILGERS: Senator Linehan, as the bill introducer, you can decide whether or not to take this up now or lay it over.

LINEHAN: Take it up now.

HILGERS: OK. Senator Chambers, you are welcome to open on your motion.

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, we now have the bill before us. With the adoption of the committee amendment, that committee amendment has become the bill. And now I have three opportunities to discuss the bill. I'm going to make Senator Lineman-- Lineham-- Linehan a person in my debt. I withdraw that motion.

HILGERS: Without objection, the motion is withdrawn. Returning to debate. OK, returning to debate on the advancement of LB518. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I get three shots here and then I will offer a motion, maybe two. I'm not going to try to reconsider the adoption of this committee amendment because I don't dislike the bill. I have nothing against the bill except for the deficiency therein for not naming these renowned slaveholders. So I'm going to read them into the record so people who may want to know who all of them are will have them at the same time. So I'm going to read the language of that amendment, which I withdrew. You know what that means? It means I can offer it again. We didn't take a vote on it. It was not defeated. So having discussed the amendment, which now is the bill, I can discuss that amendment again on the motion to advance the bill because it is now the bill. And while it's still before us being debated, I can reoffer my amendment, which I withdrew. And this is that amendment. Add this division (g), letter (g). It is appropriate to recognize and acknowledge some of the more renowned members of the All-American Pantheon of Human Traffickers. Number one, George Washington. Number two, Thomas Jefferson. Number three, James Madison. Number four, Andrew Jackson. Number five, James Monroe. All Presidents. Number six, Alexander Hamilton. Number seven, Patrick Henry, Old Pat. Give me liberty or give me death was a slaveholder. And Francis Scott Key of the land of the free and the home of the brave. These guys sure know how to wax

eloquent, didn't they? Talking about freedom, but they didn't practice it. James Madison, a President, was carried along as Patrick Henry excused himself for doing by the general inconvenience that would result from giving up their slaves. How would you feel if some-- I won't ask you. I don't feel good toward those who arrogated themselves to themselves what they call the right to own my ancestors, to own us like a cow, a pig, a chicken like this pen, a beautiful black woman and could rape her as many times as he chose to and they chose to rape them many times. Sex traffickers and the law said, you own this woman so you can do to her what you want to. You can take her sexually any way that you want to, as many times as you please, and you can invite your neighbors and your sons in to do the same thing, which they did. Your Christian leaders, the followers of your country, freedom, justice for all. And that rag is what symbolizes it--

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --as the swastika symbolized Naziism. You could at least tell the truth. You cannot make go away the things that these rotten people did. But you could at least tell the truth about it. Your "Bibble" says you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. And all these young white people go all the way through college and don't learn what people in Europe learn in their elementary school when they're studying American history because the colonists committed treason against the king. That's what that was, treason. And I'll wait until I'm recognized again.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Chambers, and you are next in the queue.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, none of you could do the job that I and other black women and black men are compelled to do in your legislative assemblies. But if you study history, you could see and would see that America could not have survived as a country without relying on the contributions of black people. There were black people in your Navy. How many of you have ever heard of John Paul Jones? You don't know what he did. I don't mean the one hand that went up. They had black men in the Navy of the United States and one guy justifying it said, I am so much in need of manpower, I will accept anything with the shape of a man. And the enemy talked about how valiantly the black men fought. Some of them were promised freedom and others were threatened by the slave master as he was called if they didn't equip themselves well, and who took the place of the white master, so-called. And I'm supposed to love

this country. I'm not like a member of those groups who had everything taken away from them, and they're so grateful just for being allowed to be alive. White people steal wherever they go. They mess up and destroy wherever they go. They finally at the national news level, talked to one of the Aboriginal elders in Australia about these gigantic fires, and this elder explained how fire was not the enemy of the people who lived in that land. They used fire. If there were noxious plants that would choke out the good or desirable plants, they use controlled fire to burn those noxious plants and they never had what they've got now when these so-called superior white devils came. And Australia was a penal colony. Convicts were sent to Australia just like they were sent to America. They could choose the noose or choose to go to one of the so-called colonies. And when the white men came, they became very destructive. And this elder stated what was said about what America was doing to villages in Vietnam you must destroy them to save them. The white man must destroy himself to save himself. And now these fires are burning out of control. A plane went down in Australia with three Americans who were flying that plane to fight the fire in Australia and all three of them were killed. Messing where they shouldn't be messing. They don't understand these fires, but they know everything and won't listen to anybody, so they pay the price. The wildlife in Australia is being destroyed and there are old black people who used to sing a song--

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --and one of the lines said, God gave Noah the rainbow sign. It wouldn't be water, but the fire next time. And when they see these blazes on the West Coast, they see the fires in Australia, they from their superstitious position, feel that scripture is being fulfilled. I don't know whether it is or not, but I know the white people brought the destruction, the destructiveness. Why do you think they have floods in other parts of this country? Because of the way white people were allowed to misuse the land, destroy it for the purpose of trying to make money. They destroyed the natural courses of streams and rivers. Now they can't control them, and nature has a way of getting even because you're playing nature on nature's home ground and you're not going to win.

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Do I have one more time on this?

HUGHES: You have one more time. Senator Chambers, you are recognized and this is your third opportunity.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. And now I will offer an amendment-- a motion that I will discuss so that I can continue. Why do you think Scott Key, Francis Scott Key, old Frank would refer this-- to this place as the land of the free and the home of the brave, and they were getting their pants pressed by the British until they started using black soldiers? So the brave were the black ones. You know who shot and killed a British General named Pitcairn? Was it at the Battle of Bunker Hill or Breed's Hill? Do you know? His name was Salem Poor. Salem Poor shot and killed General Pitcairn of the English Army. When you kill the General, you kill the head of the snake and the snake dies. A black man. You all didn't know that. The first man to die in your so-called revolution was Crispus Attucks. You may have heard that. But black men were still held in slavery. The Revolutionary War had an outcome which was favorable to the white Americans due in great part to the role that black men played. But slavery did not end when white people got their freedom. In fact to show black people how much contempt they have for us, they wrote a document that began, God created all men equal. That that is a truth, a self-evident truth. Self-evident means that when you state something, the mere stating of it proves itself. You cannot make it clearer by anything you would say to try to define it. So you could give the formula for water H2O, but once you say water is wet, there's not much else you can say. You can say, but it takes the form of ice, but that's another form of what-- water? Well, that's what I told you. I do a lot of thinking and I know that the white men in here could not deal with life that black men face because I see you all crippled and collapsed and put to flight by the little trifling things that go on in this Legislature. The Governor can intimidate you. The Attorney General can put a ring in your nose and lead you around like you do a bull. And you all could not have survived slavery. But you have people stronger than you, and that's why you think black people are superior to you. You saw that despite everything you did, black people survived where you couldn't and wouldn't. When you were afraid to go to war, you could force the black man to go in your place, and he did. And he fought valiantly for your freedom, but not the freedom of himself and his own kind. This is a vicious country, but I'm not going anywhere. Black people got off the boat before white people did, and have been here far longer. So when you say go back where you came from, they go back to Plymouth Rock.

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And that's such a silly thing for these white people to say. All these smart people who study origins say that human life originated in Africa. So if we all invited each other to go back where each other came from, we would all link arms and go back to Africa where it all started. But I want to talk a bit more about some of the things that happened to Jews at the hands of the Nazis and how ignominiously some of your American leaders conducted themselves and how the current leader of Russia-- of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion on the desk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to indefinitely postpone LB518.

HUGHES: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to-- Senator Linehan, you have as the principal introducer of the bill, you have the option to take up the motion or lay it over.

LINEHAN: Take up the motion.

HUGHES: Thank you. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, rather than just giving my opinion, I'm going to read a couple of things for you. On March 23, 1775, a man named Patrick Henry was at a Virginia convention. The year 1775 is critical. Virginia, as a state, was conducting a convention. What was the purpose of that convention? I'm not going to tell you. I will let you do your research if you care. But Patrick Henry, a slaveholder, gave a speech. This is so encouraging. It is so uplifting. It fires the blood. It inspires a desire to fight against oppression everywhere. So I want to read what old Pat said. "It is vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. The gentlemen may cry, Peace! Peace!-- but there is no peace. The war has actually begun!" And the year 1775 should tell you what war he's talking about. "The next gale that sweeps from the north will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that the gentlemen wish? What would

they have? Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" And he's a slaveholder. He's a slaveholder. Listen. "Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?" Well, there was a black man who also lived in Virginia and he heard old Pat. His name was Nat Turner. And what Pat said made sense. Is peace so dear is to be bought with chains and slavery? Pat gave me the answer. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty and give me-- or give me death and old Nat said, I'm as much a man as he is. And he unleashed what white people call a reign of terror in Virginia. They called it the Nat Turner Rebellion. White men need to be careful what they say and to be careful who's listening. All Nat Turner did was to act on what Patrick Henry recommended. But Patrick Henry forgot that he himself is a slaveholder, that he is subjecting black men to chains and slavery, and he's telling them when the white man comes to Nat Turner and says Nat, don't do this, Nat said, I've got to do it. So he went to a man who is black like Nat Turner, but had had all of the fire and the fight whipped out of him. And this man told Pat-- told Nat Turner, Nat, life is more important than anything. We need to accept what our plight is. Mr. President, how much time do I have on this time?

HUGHES: 5:55.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. So here's what Nat Turner said to this black man who came to him at the behest of the slaveholders to see if Nat Turner would call off his revolt. And this is what Nat Turner said. A black man who is enslaved-- and now let's see how those words sound to your white ears. And by the way, there are white people outside of this Chamber who are listening and there are people who are learning. This is what Nat Turner said to the black man: It is vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. The gentlemen may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace. The war has actually begun. Our brethren are already in the field. Why stand we here idle? What is it that the gentlemen wish? Wishes? What would he have me do? Then Nat Turner looked him in the eye and asked: Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God. I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death, and I will take my liberty, or I'll give you death. But something's got to give. And it's not going to me-- be me voluntarily giving up my manhood, my personhood, my self-respect, my human dignity to let some white, blue-eyed devil who rapes my women, who sells my

children like cattle, who wants to treat me in a way that his law will not allow him to treat a cow, a pig, a chicken or a dog. No, there will be no peace. I will fight him as long as I have breath in my body and the means to fight. And even when they take away my wi-- me-- means to fight, I will retain the will to fight. So the only way they're going to permanently bring what I have in mind to an end is to take my life from me, which they wound up doing. All we need to do is throw back into the white man's face what they said to the British and the British never treated white people in this country the way white people treated black people and there was no slavery found anywhere on the face of the earth that was as vicious and immoral as that found in the United States of America. Cutting people's limbs off. Frederick Douglass wrote about a situation where this black woman had to take care of this white woman's baby-- the white woman's baby. The white woman didn't want to take care of her. Well, the baby cried and it woke the white woman up and the white woman got so upset that the baby cried and woke her up that she went to the fireplace and got one of those fire logs, not afire, and hit the black woman in the head with it and killed her, and was not charged with a crime. These things are documented. Your people did it to my people. You are your ancestors' children. And that's why you can engage in such racist activity now. You are what they put in you. Read your history. Learn why Elijah Muhammad of the so-called Black Muslims refer to white people as blue-eyed devils. But he defamed the devil. And I'm going to be in this assembly and know these things and I'm supposed to go along to get along, get along with who, and why. There's nothing you can give me. There's nothing I want from you. And I certainly don't want to be like you. But the difference between me and you is that I won't do anything to harm you for no reason at all, or just because you're white. In fact, what I'm going to do the rest of my final year is hand you all documentation of what I did to help your people who came to me because their people in the Legislature would not help them. Their people would not help them and they came to me.

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And you know how they always start? Senator Chambers, I know you will help anybody. And they're telling the truth. As I've stated before, I even try to rescue your convicted murderers, whom you want your state to kill. I don't think the state should take the life of anybody. And at least to the credit of those in the EU, there can be no death penalty if you want to be a member of the EU. But here's America boasting, strutting, preening about being the greatest country

in the world, the most moral country in the world with a death penalty, and innocent men have been executed. Several hundred have through DNA, been found while on death row to be absolutely innocent and they were released. If over 350 were released from death row, how many do you think were executed while they were innocent?

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Senator Linehan, you're recognized to respond to the indefinitely postpone motion.

LINEHAN: I'm sorry, Mr. President, I wasn't paying attention. Could you repeat that?

HUGHES: You have five minutes to respond to the indefinitely postpone motion that is before us.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I have the greatest respect for Senator Chambers, and I realize he wants to educate us on this bill and history, which I appreciate very much, but this really is an important bill. And I would ask that he consider letting us finish it up this morning. Again, the reason we're doing this is we have young people who, through no fault of their own, many times get caught up in trafficking because they have had not the greatest breaks in their childhood or in their teen years, and this-- the purpose of this is to help get those young people, whether they're in their late teens or mid-teens or early 20s, out of the grasp of the traffickers and to a better life. And I know Senator Chambers said early on that he agreed with the bill, so I'm hopeful that maybe he'll consider letting this-- wrap this up yet this morning. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like, if she would yield, to ask Senator Linehan a question.

HUGHES: Senator Linehan, will you yield?

LINEHAN: Yes, sir.

CHAMBERS: Senator Linehan, if this is the only bill that moves this morning, will you feel that it has been a worthwhile morning?

LINEHAN: Yes.

CHAMBERS: OK. Thank you. That's all I will ask you. And to the extent that it's within my power, this bill will have enough time before we adjourn for the day to move. And that's all that I'll ask you, Senator Linehan. But I'm going to say what a guy says on a radio program when he signs off. He says, well, I-- and it's a program, they call it Boomer, B-o-o-m-e-r, from Omaha, 1490. I'll see you tomorrow, unless Jesus comes first. And if he does, I'm going with him. Well, if there is a Jesus and if he comes before noon today, I'm going with Jesus. But he can't pull a fast shuffle on me. He's going to have to take some water and turn it into wine. Now, a wino cannot turn water into wine, but he can reverse the process and turn wine into water. Will he get credit for that? Of course not. We're going to have some bills later on in the session, which I don't believe should pass, and I will not give that bill or those bills a pass. That doesn't mean I can stop every bill that I don't like. It doesn't mean that I will try by every and any means necessary to stop every bill that I don't like. Some bills I don't like are peewee bills. They don't amount to anything. So it will be enough for me to express my opposition, my reason for the opposition, then let you have your way and make the Legislature look foolish. But if it's a bill that deprives people of a basic right, then I will go to the mat on that. When they talk about the mat and that expression is like, you know, in a wrestling match or a boxing match, you're going all the way. When I saw this bill on the agenda several days ago, the first thing that jumped into my mind is a question. How they-- how can they make it criminal for people to do what the founding fathers of their country did? How dare you make that conduct criminal. But you're doing it because now the shoe pinches your foot. The onus is on your back. We're now dealing with the theoretical, with the historical. We're dealing with the here and now. And you have seen how people who are brought under so much control by somebody else that they don't even control their own body, their own life. They can be forced to do things that are degrading, that are dehumanizing, to enrich somebody else. And you can see that because you've seen it happen to people and you are outraged. You are offended. But you know why you don't have to talk like I talk, because everybody agrees with you. Very few people in this country would agree

with me openly and honestly. But if it's wrong now, how can conduct worse than what you are--

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --seeking to punish today, how can you not at least condemn that wrongful conduct that I'm condemning? Mr. President, I've spoken on several things. Which time is this of my speaking on what's before us now?

HUGHES: This is your first time. You have two more opportunities.

CHAMBERS: Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You are next in the queue. You are recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, one of the most difficult things in the world is to try to deal with people who are going the wrong way down a road, not because they've thought their way through the issue and made a conscious decision, they are going in that direction because somebody told them to do it, somebody they either respect or fear. And because that is the motivating factor, you're not going to reason them out of what they are doing because they were not reasoned into it. I'm not going to try to bulldoze anybody out of what they believe or don't believe. I don't care what they believe or don't believe. What I care about is what that belief causes them to do to people who cannot help themselves. Do you all know that America had the opportunity to save untold numbers of Jews during the period known as the Holocaust? Americans knew what was going on. There's a family that is considered the only aristocratic family that America ever produced, the Kennedys. An old guy named Joe Kennedy was an ambassador. They could have traded trucks for Jews. Hitler said, give me some trucks and I'll give you some Jews. And Joseph Kennedy and the United States people said, oh, no, our trucks mean more to us than those Jews. They ought to get out of Germany anyway, go back where they came from. Nobody likes a Jew. If you think anybody likes Jews, go back and read The Merchant of Venice that Shakespeare wrote. And there are any number of other what are called great works of literature that characterize Jews the way people view them, not the riffraff, the intelligentsia, the leaders of society. How do you think that a situation that developed in Germany could do so? Well, I look at what's happening in this country, and

Senator Hunt touched on it with the children of these immigrants. Children taken away from their parents, scattered across the world, literally. Those parents will never see their children again. Then you got some hypocrites running around here talking about they're worried about abortion and go out when it's cold and want to walk in the cold, about for fetuses, embryos and zygotes, but nothing, not a word about the children, as the philosophers say, in esse, e-n-e-s-s-e [SIC], in being, fully-fledged human being. You don't hear them talking about that on the floor, do you? The hypocrites who bring these antiabortion bills, when have they ever stood up and talked about anything that goes to help the people among us who are poor, who are homeless? See the babies with not enough to eat. See the children with no shoes on the feet. Hungry people living out in the street. Yes, there's going to be a revolution. That's part of a song. That's why I get so offended when you all put preachers up there.

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: You don't care about people. And we're gonna go like scorpions in a bottle when that crazy antiabortion bill comes up. And I'm gonna ask, where are you when we talk about children? Why does it take somebody like me to remind you that children are supposed to be to all of us so precious, but they're not precious to you? Discrimination in the schools, mistreatment of these children at Kearney and Geneva, our children. They should be deemed all of our children and we should nurture and cherish them and not allow the horrible things to happen to them that are being done to them right now under the auspices of this state that you all govern, a Christian Governor who's going to set aside a day of prayer. Did he pray for those girls--

HUGHES: Time.

CHAMBERS: --at Geneva?

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: You are next in the queue and this is your final opportunity.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. And on this one, I am, after we get through, going to offer a reconsideration motion because I don't want to have to use my brain and put together anything of substance. When I saw the

pictures, the photographs of the condition those girls lived in, what I felt like doing was getting one of these Caterpillars and tearing down the whole facility after all the girls were out of it. This is a Christian state. You got hypocrites in here bringing bills against abortion and they know what's happening to girls in the custody of this state and they won't quiver. They won't do anything. They won't even say anything. We have children being abused in the courts and we've got these hypocrites saying they don't need a lawyer. They got parents who brutalize these children and those parents are the ones into whose tender mercy these children should be delivered, and told that they're not going to have a lawyer and they shouldn't have one. Then these loud, fat-mouthed hypocrites are going to say those children shouldn't have a lawyer. They got a lawyer. Why do you think the Governor is so hardhearted? Because he had a rich daddy and grew up as a spoiled rich brat and a coward at that. Why did he show such contempt for the law when he had those hands on the property of the State Cap-- of the Governor's mansion in violation of the law? That was a violation of the law and that hypocritical so-called Christian over there refused to take them down. And his buddy, the Attorney General, didn't say he should. There is a process before any displays are to be on state property. That requirement applied to the Capitol, to the Governor's mansion. He did not follow the rules to have that done. And he's the chairperson. Well, I'm going to put that all together and show you. And he's the one who gonna tell people about the law. He's as lawless as President Trump. And you know what his daddy did? And the nut doesn't fall far from the tree. Joe Ricketts, in addition to proven by the posts on the Internet that he's a racist, an old dyed-in-the-wool hat racist, unreconstructed racist, he put it out there and made it clear. He lives in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, because he doesn't want to pay income tax in Nebraska. He has a big-- he had a big headquarters for TD Ameritrade in one of the better parts of town, west Omaha. He, who doesn't want to put taxes here, took advantage of a program called TIF, tax increment financing. That TIF money is supposed to be available only when land is-- you all know the two words, blighted and substandard. Around 108th and Dodge out there is neither blighted nor substandard. And the citizens and business owners were very upset that he's going to have their area declared by the city council blighted and substandard. But Daddy Ricketts got a lot of money. So he got that TIF money for his headquarters and to the tune of several millions of dollars. Joe Ricketts, multibillionaire, and now what did he do? He got a better deal. And he sold it and they can say, well, there is a board of directors. You think Joe Ricketts

doesn't have a lot to say about what happens with TD Ameritrade? You are--

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --out of your mind. So that's what he did. Doesn't want to pay Nebraska taxes, but he had money from the taxpayers to build his-- help him put up his TD Ameritrade headquarters. Then he sells it at a handsome profit. And you got his lazy, cowardly, lawless son sitting over there as the Governor. And I can prove that he violated the law because everybody familiar with what you have to do before you can put any kind of display on state property is aware of it. I did my homework. Who's going to call that lawless person to account? Nobody. You white people are not going to do anything. I think I shared some information with you. Not a puppy made a whimper. How am I going to have respect for what goes on in this Chamber?

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one else in the queue, you're recognized to close on your motion to indefinitely postpone.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Do you know why I am so verbally rough on you all? You all are not helpless. If you were a bunch of ne'er-do-wells fussing and disputing on some street corner, I'd let you do what you want to do. If you all were beating each other's brains out in a bar or a tavern where you all go, that's for you all and the police to handle. Do anything you want to. This place is different. This place is where we have the means whenever we choose to alleviate the problems that are facing the people in this state. There doesn't have to be a person who goes to bed hungry at night because he or she does not have food. There should be nobody who doesn't have a warm, familiar bed to lie down in at the end of the day. But that happens here. Nobody should be suffering a mental or physical illness without being able to procure medical treatment, which is readily available. But that doesn't happen in this state because you got that spoiled brat of a lawless Governor over there. He is a criminal and you all invite him in here to stand over you and talk down to you. How can I respect you? You don't read anything, but you sometimes will make condem-- condemning statements about what others are doing. Don't condemn the communists. Don't condemn the socialists. Don't condemn

ISIS. Don't condemn the Taliban. Don't condemn anybody. Don't condemn the Nazis. You all have a way of killing people, inch by inch, squeezing out the sense of self-worth and dignity drop by drop. And others who could stop it, watch it, and will not even raise your voice. What prevents you from even saying something? What kind of people are you? I have wasted 46 years of my life in this place and I have not wavered. I have not varied from the principles that accompanied me to this place. And I won't in my last go-round. And I'm as offended by your lack of human compassion as I was the first day I came here. But at least while I was here, I could try to do what one man can do to mitigate some of it. And now I hear you all talking about some kind of asinine tax to tax everything. And it's gonna make everybody happy and make people want to come to this state. You-- a tax, you tax the little dogs, you tax the little cats, you tax the chewing gum and you tax the Stetson hats. You tax the suits. You tax the boots. You tax the haircuts. And that's better than what it is? People who are paying no tax on things now are gonna pay a tax and that's better for them?

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: That's-- that's what I'm going to fight and I'm going to take more time and write a song based on Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O. And every time we come to that, and maybe another time, I'm going to sing that little ditty for you. [SINGING] Legislators want to tax, E-I-E-I-O. Everything they want to tax, E-I-E-I-O. With a tax act there and tax act here, here a tax, there a tax, everywhere a tax act, legislators want a tax, take their tax and go. I'm going to have to take some time and do something that's more in keeping with the dignity, or lack thereof, of that effort. Thank you, Mr. President. Since that's my close, I would ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There's been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 22 ayes, 7 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

HUGHES: The house is under call. Senators, plea-- please record your presence. The unexcused senators outside the Chamber please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel

please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senators Wishart, Pansing Brooks, McDonnell, please return to the Chamber. The house is under call. We're all here. The question before the body is to indefinitely postpone LB3-- or LB518. A roll call vote has been requested. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Albrecht.

ALBRECHT: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Arch.

ARCH: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Blood.

BLOOD: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brewer.

BREWER: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator DeBoer.

DeBOER: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Dorn.

DORN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Erdman.

ERDMAN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Geist. Senator Gragert.

GRAGERT: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Groene.

GROENE: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Morfeld. Senator Moser.

MOSER: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Quick.

QUICK: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Walz.

WALZ: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: No.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Voting no. The vote is 0 ayes, 47 nays, Mr. President.

HUGHES: The motion fails. Items, Mr. Clerk. I raise the call.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB4, LB4A, LB30, LB93, LB153, LB230, LB582, LB740 and LB741, all placed on Final Reading. Notice of committee hearing from the Education Committee, the Agriculture Committee, the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. In addition to that, amendment to be printed from Senator Hughes to LB126.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Linehan, you're recognized to close on LB518.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I would appreciate your green vote on LB518. Again, it's the Support for Trafficking Survivors Act is to prevent and identify and respond to the crime of sex trafficking in Nebraska, and to support the safety, well-being and economic stability of its victims. It would formalize a statewide plan for trafficking services and support law enforcement to more successfully investigate, to pros-- prosecute sex traffickers. Again, through the amendment, the committee amendment, there is no funding associated with this bill. So with that, I appreciate you all being here, and I would ask for your green vote. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. The question is the advancement of LB518 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 46 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

HUGHES: The bill advances. For items, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, name adds: Senator Wayne to LB310 and LB518; Senator Quick to LB518; Senator La Grone to LB744; Senator Vargas to LB933 and LB968; Senator Murman to LB1136; Senator Lindstrom to LB1162, Senator McCollister to LB1177. And priority motion. Senator Albrecht would move to adjourn the body until January 28, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

HUGHES: Colleagues, you've all heard the motion. Everyone in favor say aye. Opposed, nay. Motion carries. We are adjourned.