

up and that's what happened over the years to a lot men and women, both. They married hoping perhaps that their life would be okay or to cover up and that's what it was in this particular case, and really a cover up. So the point I'm making is a lot of people say, well, why do they want to talk about it, why do they want to come out and tell us all about it? It's better to know. It is better for them to be open about it. It is better for us to know because then we have something we can deal with in a straightforward way and I think perhaps this is what this bill is all about, to deal with it in a straightforward way. I'm not sure that I understand and maybe Senator Chambers can touch on this or someone else who knows the labor laws, I don't understand why they are not covered now; why people who are homosexuals or lesbians, are not protected now. I'd like to hear that because, if they are not, then I suppose there's something logical about this bill that they should be, but I do have a lot of different feelings about it. I still have some resentments, you see, from our family experience, I have some resentments that someone would do that to someone that I love and care about and hurt her for all of her life. So I haven't offered or added a lot to this debate this morning except that I think each one of us must think about it, how it affects us or our family or someone that we know, our constituents, everybody that might be involved. So try and have a heart this morning and some compassion for people who maybe...I have one good friend that is a lesbian and I said to her in one meeting, I simply, I'm sorry, I just really don't understand it and she said, neither do I. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, the attitude that exists in America goes beyond discrimination in the workplace. It goes to what has been called gay bashing where people are physically assaulted and many have been killed because of their sexual orientation of a perception that this is their sexual orientation. Many people who are attacked in this way will not report the crime because to do so could cause them to lose their employment, be shunned by their family and friends. We, in the Legislature, have an obligation to uplift society. We are talking about people who are so fearful that they cannot even speak in their own behalf unless they're not concerned about losing a job. The fact that they can lose a job so easily, the fact that senators are reluctant to even discuss the issue should give us an idea of the hell that people can go