

that. Let's do it, let's vote it up and get it moving so we can get it in place. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, and, Senator Abboud, I didn't have much opportunity last night to go over this bill because I wound up testifying in the Government Committee, and they hold long meetings and things similar to what the Judiciary Committee does on occasion, but it was an important issue. And this one is important, and I have mixed emotions about this bill. But I will tell all of you how I feel about things such as this. I believe that whenever we enact a law, no matter how serious the issue is that we're addressing, no matter how reprehensible the conduct is that we are trying to criminalize or deal with, I don't think we ought to refer to the bestiary for terminology. I think words like predator and predatory are not terms appropriate to be applied to human beings. I don't care what the person has done, and I know that this is a political bill because it came from national and other states where people had to launch political efforts to get a bill enacted, a law enacted. So they used very inflammatory, very derogatory terminology to turn the people who are being addressed by this legislation into animals. If I'm opposed to executing a person, no matter what he or she has done, it shouldn't surprise you that I'm unwilling to agree to putting language in a law that refers to animals rather than human beings. Regardless of how debased the conduct is, or how hateful we think the person is who engages in it, the language in our laws ought to have a certain dignity and majesty. And I think we sink below the level of appropriate human decency and dignity by referring to these people as predators. If you're going to use that kind of language, then I think on page 388 of the Journal, where we have a part of Senator Abboud's amendment, in line 17, instead of saying "Sexually violent predator means a person", to be consistent you should say sexually violent predator means an animal. And I'm going to offer these kinds of amendments and make us be consistent. And if you, as a body, feel that this kind of conduct reduces a person to the level of the animal kingdom, drops that person out of the family of humankind, then you're going to say it and you're going to say it explicitly. The reason I am so troubled by this kind of language in these kind of bills is because you all are the ones who insist on having basically, by and large, Christian