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LB 132A, 364, 622, 622A, 710, 829A

(LB) 829A, (LB) 622, (LB) 622A, (LB) 710, and (LB) 132A.
Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President and members, I...I rise in opposition to the motion to return, and I do support the comments Senator Brashear has been making. I have previously introduced legislation to deal with a number of criminal issues. One of them established the child protection unit in the Attorney General's Office. The same Attorney General that talks about cracking down on crime, and dealing with...being tougher with our criminals is also the same Attorney General that every time there is a proposal to cut the budget of the Attorney General's Office, the first thing he wants to cut is the child protection unit, which is out there to work with our county attorneys to try and deal with crimes against our children, violent crimes against our children, to work with our county attorneys to prosecute those crimes and bring justice to those criminals. And that's our Attorney General talking about on the one hand how we got to get tough with this legislation, but when it is time to get tough with those who would abuse our children and assault our children is not there to support and to make that a priority within his office. So I say it duplicitous, and I say that it is nothing but political rhetoric that we're hearing on this issue. I think Senator Brashear is exactly right. We need to distinguish between those issues that need to have the tougher penalties, the tougher prosecutions. Senator Schmitt was talking about that. I completely agree, Senator Schmitt, we have got to work with our county attorneys to do a better job in prosecution. We need to, I think sexual predators are an area that we need to have tougher crime penalties involved with. We have got to keep those people behind bars. All that can be done with this sort of proposal that distinguishes between felonies that are a threat to the public, those that are a lesser threat, and, thus, don't need some of the level of commitment to our prison system. I think Senator Brashear is exactly right, and I yield the rest of my time to him.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Brashear, there are three minutes remaining.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Madam President, members of the