

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Wesely wants this bill in his committee because he favors it. So all of that is neither here nor there. This is not a public health issue. This is an issue of what rights a person has to his or her body and to dispose of it as he or she pleases. They started, last year, by saying eye tissue can be taken even without the authorization of the person from whom it's to be taken after they are deceased. I was not a member of the Executive Board which was the Reference Committee at that time. Because things have been improperly referenced in the past is no reason why that ought to continue in the present. This is not the only bill whose reference I've objected to, as the members of the Executive Board can tell you. I've questioned Dr. Rodgers. We've had discussions on why he arrived at the conclusion to refer a bill as he had done. Some bills have been referred to every imaginable committee that could have any bearing whatsoever on the subject matter of the bill. So what often happens is that a particular senator or group will try to get a bill referred to a certain committee to ensure its successful passage through that phase of the process. This is not an organ donation piece of legislation. It deals with the rights that a person would have to determine, while alive, the disposition of his or her body. They are taking part, by part, by part. If you take all of the parts then pretty soon the parts will equal the whole. Or if you take a majority of the parts without the person consenting to it then you may as well say the rest can be taken too. That is what part of the issue is, not public health, not what these parts will be used for once they've been taken without the person from whose body it is taken having given his or her consent prior to death. It is a legal issue. It can even be called a moral issue. In this society, as we saw from the World War II hero, as they called him, who froze to death in Washington, more consideration is given to a carcass than to a living person. While alive, that person could get no consideration even though he had been a hero. But now that he's a corpse, they're going to give military honors, put the corpse in a big box, take it out to a favorite place, put it in the ground with flags and people shooting guns and everybody dropping their eyes like they are sorry. Nonsense. But let's look at the consideration accorded corpses in this