

supporting this amendment or this commitment of Senator Chambers and I will support it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I just want to touch on a couple of things that Senator Hefner discussed because they are issues that people talk about but they're generally misinformed on as is what he indicated. It is found statistically, Senator Hefner, that more prison guards are killed in states where there is a death penalty than in states where there is not a death penalty. It cannot be shown and has never been shown that people who have been sentenced to life without parole become unmanageable, unruly or more brutal prisoners than the others. And if Senator Hefner and others who provide him information would check the history that has been put together in states where such a history exists, they would see that what is being offered in the kind of information that Senator Hefner gives us is really misinformation and falsehood. And when people have to try to support a position by presenting falsehood it's clear that they have no legitimate argument against the issue. Nebraska has a death penalty, Kansas does not, Iowa does not. Nobody in Iowa or Kansas has ever stated that they feel less safe and secure in Kansas or Iowa because they have a death...they don't have a death penalty. Nobody in Nebraska has said they feel more safe and secure in Nebraska because it does have a death penalty. Many of the citizens in this state are totally misinformed on this issue because I've gotten letters praising me for sponsoring bills to reinstate the death penalty. They're wrong on both counts. My bill is to abolish the death penalty and if it were not in existence, I would not support its reinstatement. I'm probably the most strenuous opponent of the death penalty so many people are not even aware of what happens. Senator Hefner mentioned victims. I have not mentioned this on the floor but the issue is very, very important. Senator Hefner, my nephew was killed in December of last year. He was shot several times in the head. And when that happened people couldn't wait to come to me and ask me, how do I now feel about the death penalty. I feel the same way. The state should not kill its citizens. We have an obligation to be a humanizing and civilizing force in this society. The U.S. Supreme Court has stated repeatedly that interpretations of the Constitution will change as a society matures, as it becomes more humane. Those practices which were acceptable at an earlier date no longer