

appoint Ron Tussing as head of the Patrol. At that time, my only objection was that Ron Tussing was not a member of the Patrol at the time and I felt that the people who have worked in the Patrol are the ones who deserved, and they work up through the ranks, one of them deserved to be Colonel. I wasn't tied to any one person. I just felt that the person should come from the Patrol. And I will go back in my own history and which I outlined to the Governor, when I wrote to him, my father was a policeman in the thirties and forties in a small town in Nebraska and his job depended on who he voted for or supported for mayor and/or city council. I don't want to go back to those days and that's why I raised the question about taking someone from outside the Patrol. It has absolutely nothing to do with Ron Tussing's qualifications. He is a fine law enforcement officer. I think he is doing a wonderful job. I was most impressed with him at the hearing on the State Patrol when they came to the Appropriations Committee on their budget. He is just a fine man in all ways and he is doing a really fine job and I know he will. The other thing, I will vote for this bill for Wendy Tussing. She earned being in the Patrol and she deserves to stay there and work her way up just as the other people do. So my vote today and in the future for this bill is for Wendy Tussing. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak on this bill? Seeing none, do you have closing, Speaker Baack?

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, Madam President, and colleagues, I appreciate the discussion. I think that Senator Withem definitely does bring an issue that we do need to consider in this Legislature. I don't know if we need to do it this year but I think it's something that we do need to look at and come to some conclusion on because I think there is a question out there as to whether or not what we are doing is correct. I don't have any problem with coming up with a definition of family. My understanding is that as they worked on the bill they looked at the accountability statutes and found that definition there, did not find that to be real satisfactory but we're going to try and come up with a definition of that to try and narrow the scope of this just a little bit if we can on Select File. I would certainly welcome the opportunity to do that. I think this is something that we need to do this year. It does have the emergency clause on it because I think it needs to go into effect right away and I have the utmost confidence in