

think we can have a coming together. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President, and members of the body, lest we forget what we are debating here, we are debating Senator Chambers' amendment and so I guess I have to rise in support of at least considering Senator Chambers' amendment and that is after all what we are here for. As Senator Chambers has said many times, this body is the marketplace of ideas and we are here to debate those ideas. That's what a deliberative body is all about. That's what our democracy is all about. I would say that it is no more a waste of taxpayers' money to discuss this bill at length, again, than to discuss other bills at length. I might point out, Senator Witek, that nobody's arguing that you don't have the time that you need to adequately put together the bill that you need, and there have been in truth 12 amendments so far filed on the crime bill. To date, to the best of my knowledge, there have been seven amendments filed on this particular bill, not counting the committee amendments. So in terms of...in terms of comparing, I don't think you can really do that because it depends on the issue, depends on the complexity of the issue. It depends on the number of issues dealt within a bill. It is no more a waste of taxpayers' money to debate a bill at length than it is to pass a bill that may or may not be unconstitutional. One of the things that has always come up on this floor when we have discussed bills on abortion, and we have done that at least, I think, three of the four years that I have been here, and all of us at one time or another do take a position on this very, very difficult issue and we do answer to our constituents. And I might say to Senator Witek and others that I have many women writing me right now who are saying, why aren't you standing up and debating this issue? Why are you letting Senator Chambers do all the work on this issue? We don't want LB 110. So I think there are always two sides to the issue. But in the morning paper, to go back to my original thought, in the morning paper, on page 13 of the Omaha World-Herald, there was a story this morning that talked about the North Dakota 24-hour waiting period bill, and it makes me wonder if we shouldn't be bracketing this bill until a later date because there is a possibility, as there is always a possibility when we're dealing with this kind of legislation that what we do here will be of no consequences...consequence, in the long run, because the bill that we pass may be declared