

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. So far, I don't think anybody has talked to whether or not this is really germane. If you look at the bill itself and if you look at the sections cited in the amendment, it seems to me Senator Chambers might help me on that, it's all the same sections. So as I read the germaneness rule, that part of the thing I think we look at is whether or not it's all in the same section of statute. For instance, I couldn't bring an amendment to this bill having to do with how you ride a motorcycle or something because it is a different section of the statutes. I am going to support the challenge, I'm going to vote to overrule the Chair. I think that's right, Kate, because I got a little confused here along the way. I don't think that, saying that we need to talk about the death penalty on the floor of the Legislature is really a point that I don't think we need to spend a lot of time on it, perhaps, that's not a reason for listening to the debate on this amendment. We are talking about something that a lot of us feel strongly, no matter how you feel about the death penalty itself. To me, the death penalty is a grizzly thing, even though those people who have taken the lives of another one, I cringe when I think of taking their life. I'm going to tell you just one quick thing. I had kept some statistics to remind you of who is on death row at the present time in our penitentiary down here on Highway 77. Of the 12 men, nine of the crimes happened before 1986. Seven of the men are white Caucasian. Four of the men are black or Afro-American. One of the men is a Native American, six are from Douglas County, two are from Lancaster County, one each from Sarpy, Hall, Richardson and Cherry. The reason I bring those up to you again, I've mentioned them before, is I think you have to think about who is sitting out there and how long they've been and this is what we're talking about today, this endless appeal system. So think about what Senator Witek's amendment is about. It's about the appeals system. So, for that reason, I am going to vote to overrule the Chair. I think it is germane. I think we should talk about it this morning. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members, I rise to sustain the Chair on the motion with regard to the Witek amendment not being germane to this bill. Clearly, as much as I would love to be entertained by the Chambers-Witek exchange, I