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LB 19, 215

to understand that orientation is a matter of appearance, of bodily build, of voice and of other psychological factors...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: ...that are a part of the person. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Maxwell, on the motion to return LB 215.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Chambers, we spoke in private conversation yesterday and I had said I might want to ask you a question, just to get it on the record. That's what I'm going to do now. I'll pose my question and then yield the balance of my time to Senator Chambers. I have no problem with this provision in this bill, the real estate industry wants it and, as I say, I don't have a problem with this provision as it is in this bill. Now the argument has been raised, well, this is actually a way for Senator Chambers to enact LB 19, which is a broader-based bill regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation, a way of creating a new protected class for all purposes under law. I am not necessarily hostile to LB 19, this is not a hostile inquiry, but I haven't read it, I haven't studied it, I haven't heard enough conversation about it either through our formal hearing process or informally with constituents in my district. So I haven't reached a position on what I think about that as a broad-based concept. I am uncomfortable right now at the prospect of, in effect, enacting something like LB 19, without having gone through our normal process, our normal channels. So my question to you, Senator Chambers, or my request, I guess, is would you comment on whether you see the impact of this provision in this bill extending beyond this provision and this bill into broader areas of the law.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Maxwell, your question is appropriate. LB 19, for those who may not know from the number, is a bill that I've offered periodically which would prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual