

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 31, 2001

LB 215

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The house is under call. Would unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Would members please return to the Chamber. Would members please record your presence. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will reemphasize what has been well stated by others since this is the closing. We are not talking about conduct. We are talking about orientation--that state of being which Senator Hilgert pointed out the Catholic Church believes is not a matter of choice. When Senator Tyson was castigating me for not reading all of the Governor's letter, I guess he failed to note that I'm the one who handed it out and declared that each person can read the entire letter because that's why I wanted it on your desk before I began discussing the motion to override. I wish that we would override the Governor's veto. It will show that the notion of equality before the law does have meaning. When Senator Wickersham stated that the profession which is affected wants the bill, he was not saying what Senator Smith seemed to be suggesting, that any time a group to be regulated comes in here we give them what they want. This is a bill that is the result of much study, much collaboration and work. They just made a bad judgment about who to trust the bill to. The realtors want the bill. The commission that regulates the realtors want the bill. I mentioned Creighton, for Senator Tyson's information I'm saying this, because they emphasized that they are not endorsing a lifestyle. This bill is not endorsing a lifestyle. The amendment is not endorsing a lifestyle. The conduct that is affected by this bill is the conduct of those who hold real estate licenses. I don't think the Legislature would feel a sense of shame if it overrides this veto. I do not believe that the Legislature will be viewed by the public at large as having done something inappropriate in putting into the law a provision that says when a person is seeking the services of a person holding a real estate license that person should be free from being discriminated against. The majority of Nebraskans would agree with this amendment. There was no outcry by the people in this state when sexual orientation was included in the hate crimes bill which is now the law of the state. I wish that my colleagues could consider...