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amendments. I did not ask him to limit the time he would use. In fact, I told him that if there were a bill about which I had concerns such as those he entertained about the one we just advanced I would feel an obligation to deal with that bill and process my amendments. So I did not tell him or even ask that he withdraw amendments or scale back on the time he would use. We will go through Senator Foley's amendments. Now, naturally, I'm not going to help him, but we'll see if the session ends right here. If it does, that's what happens in the game of politics. What goes around comes around. When you dish it out, as I do, you've got to be able to take it, and I certainly can. If along the way you have any questions of me, I will be pleased to answer them, but let me tell you what makes it easy for me to support a bill like this. The question that needs to be answered is whether or not people who are designated gay men or lesbian women are indeed human beings. The answer to that question for me is yes. Since that is the case, they are entitled to protection when they, as a group, are singled out, not only for verbal abuse, not only for physical abuse, but sometimes for murder. Then the state has an obligation to build a wall of protection around that group. Some people who oppose this bill will say if you don't have unchangeable, or the word they like to use, immutable traits then you do not qualify as a group. Well, we don't allow discrimination based on marital status and what is more changeable in this society than marital status? What is more voluntary than entering a marriage or getting out? We do not allow discrimination based on religion. Religion certainly is changeable. Those in religions even change the beliefs, the dogmas and the doctrines. So all such arguments as that can be turned against those who want to present them. But what I hope will be focused on is the fact that in this state, in the year 2002, enough of my colleagues will believe that our brothers, our sisters, our cousins, our aunts, our uncles, our grandmothers, grandfathers, our friends, our neighbors, those we don't even know will not be demeaned by a statute which would take away their humanity, will be demeaned by our unwillingness to enact a statute that will ensure and guarantee that we recognize their humanity. Families become aware that a member is gay after everybody else knows, and the family sometimes will say, why didn't you tell me? And the person will say, because I know how you feel. I heard the