

important issue. I don't know even if there is any other bill out here that Senator Ashford can move to. And let me commend Senator Ashford, I think he has really taken on a tough issue. Politically, this is a dead-end bill, I mean, dead-end concept in a lot of ways. The NRA is a very powerful entity, very emotional one, and one with a lot of influence in this state in particular. And for Senator Ashford to stand up or myself or any of the rest of us, this is a difficult thing to do. But at the same time, I am sick and tired of the situation in terms of how we have been ignoring that issue, been afraid of that issue, and I, for one, plan to sustain Senator Ashford in trying to overrule the Chair, so, at least, we can bring this matter to the floor. There are many related issues and it does tie in. I think you can logically argue that if you are going to deal with drugs and deal with that problem, as the drug czar of this country said, you have got to deal with these automatic weapons and how we can try and stop the flow of those weapons to our drug dealers.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore, have you decided you would like to speak?

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, I originally was going to pass up the opportunity to speak on germaneness, but after some of Senator Wesely's comments, I feel compelled to stand in defense of the Chair. On this particular issue, as we all have known with some previous rulings last week, we started the annual fight over germaneness in this body. I guess Senator Wesely and I will disagree. I think we are wise to have a narrow scope on this rule. Now rules are rules are rules. You can read 7, 3(d), it says, germaneness deals with subject. Now if you need flexibility to deal with an issue, you can either suspend the rules, you can introduce a bill, or some other things, but the fact of the matter is, I think Speaker Barrett has been very consistent and very correct in having a narrow germaneness rule. If the time comes when this body has to deal with an issue, and the only opportunity we have is to amend it to a bill that is not germane, we, obviously, have the opportunity then to do it up right, up front in the correct way, and suspend the rules. But I think Senator Wesely and I will agree that this amendment, no matter how you look at it, is probably not germane, but I just think that since you were taking the opportunity to attack the Chair for its narrow ruling, I rise to defend it and think that the Speaker has done a very fine job and, in the end, it will make it much easier for us to conduct the business in here,