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with broad, serious issues of concern to the populace, we have to find a way to allow ourselves as a Legislature to legislate. If the federal government tried to restrict us as we foolishly are doing ourselves, we would talk about improper...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...pressure brought on us by the federal government. If the State Supreme Court interpreted the law to restrict us as a Legislature as we are doing by our own rules, we would talk about improper judicial interference and legislation by the court which should not occur, and we would be correct in both instances. So we are giving up voluntarily that which we would not tolerate anybody else taking from us. And if that is the path the Legislature intends to continue following, we deserve exactly what we get when the public becomes aware of how restricted our ability to deal with legislation has become. Nobody forced us to do this. We did it as a nonthinking, irresponsible body, and I think...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...it is a shame.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Senator Chambers' comments have put me in an awkward position because I tend to agree with him. At the same time, every time I have used the argument on one of my bills, I haven't done very well. So I...maybe I should be consistent here, maybe we should be consistent and debate the issue and vote on the suspension of the rules on this one, instead of being, as I think we should have been in the past, more open about allowing us to consider some amendments to bills. So I am in an awkward position. Generally, I believe we do need to open up the process and allow more amendments; at the same time, we haven't done that. We have been narrow in the germaneness rule, and we have regularly not suspended the rules to allow amendments. So I guess in this situation, I am saying, let's continue to follow that policy, but hope that we change it at a later point when I try again on some of my other bills. In any event, a little attempt to provide some humor because this is a very serious matter, a very difficult decision to make. I don't want to deny the chance to discuss the issue. I think, obviously, it needs to be