

Lincoln matters, the Lincoln senators will close and form a solid phalanx and show the rest of the state that this is a matter that all senators should be concerned about and we should all overcome parochial interests and do that which is right. And a lot of us do that, even without that kind of heart-wrenching appeal made to us. Then we come to a situation which should be close to a conservatives heart, that is allowing the people to be affected by an action of government to have some meaningful say in that action. So we have a little town, a little municipality that is on its bended knees, hands clasped, up raised to the Legislature. And we have conservatives saying, but, no, you have no right to select somebody that you feel knows enough to represent your interests. If it related to the university, and the Legislature said, because we want some pushovers, the university cannot select people that they think can articulate the position of the university, we want to pick some people who we know in advance cannot stand up to the ones who are on the other side of the question. The Lincoln senators would be outraged and so would I because I'm not in favor of giving the strong more strength by which they can oppress and trod or tread down the weak. But what do we have in this Legislature? Conservatives voting against the right of a beleaguered group to select a representative who can speak well on their behalf. I've had various senators come to me and ask me to speak in behalf of legislation, because on occasion I can say things that might be persuasive. And the particular issue they bring to me has no impact on my constituency, if by that I mean the people in the district that I represent, no impact on my constituency whatsoever. As a matter of fact, I, probably more than any other senator, cast votes that are not going to be beneficial to the people I represent at all, yet I'm probably one of those, I won't say the only one, that would be arrogant. I'm probably one of those who will give more votes to help uphold the rights of people who hate me and my kind than any other senator on this floor. Do you all think I'm so naive that I think, if I went out to some of these little towns that I constantly try to speak in behalf of on this floor, that those people would welcome me or my kind with open arms? No, because I've been out there too many times. I get too much scurrilous mail. I get too many harassing, insulting phone calls. I am in the eye of that storm all the time, and my ability to be a representative of interest beyond those of my district...

PRESIDENT: One minute.