

minute of your time to respond to that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: You've hit the heart of it. The proposed law would permit peace officers to intervene at an earlier time because, in essence, it says, the proposed amendment that we have, would be where reasonable belief that someone had threatened another or attempted to cause. The key thing is where someone had threatened another, and in order to get that particular thing, we have then on line 3 threatening another in a menacing manner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bernard-Stevens, this threatening another in a menacing manner is a part of the definition of third degree assault, or Class III assault, or whatever it is. Are you aware of that?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If that already is the law, then why do we need to deal with the warrantless search provision of the law to put in something else that is already covered by the law?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: If that's the question, I guess I could turn it around and say, if it is currently the law, then why are we objecting to simply restating again what is current law?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. That is what I want to get to, and I like the way he phrased the question. How many times, on this floor, to satisfy some particular special interest group, are we going to pass a bill saying what is already in the law, in a law that they want their name on to say, and this time we mean it. The law, as it exists now, allows an arrest under these circumstances. What some of these people who are talking about domestic abuse want to do is allow intrusions of the police into the household on very flimsy reasons. But even under the existing law, that can be done because the present law, talking about warrantless searches, indicates that the officer may arrest a person without a warrant, if the officer has reasonable cause to believe that such person has committed a misdemeanor and the officer has reasonable cause to believe that such person either will not be apprehended, may cause injury to himself or herself, or others, or damage property, or destroy or