

addressed this morning. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for visiting us this morning. Senator Chambers, please, followed by Senator Crosby and Senator Ashford.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I think it's clear that there is no amendment that will be offered to this bill that will not result in a discussion of the bill itself and the matters that the bill addresses. I think it's kind of interesting that we have seen how this bill has split this Legislature asunder. It is going to continue to split this Legislature asunder and it is going to divide this society. I think some of these people who say that they are in favor of a woman having the right to choice are going to have to become politically mature. Right now they are politically naive, politically asleep. They need to set up a political action committee and push for their issue, their point of view on this issue, just as those who are called pro-life have done. There has been a lot of "unanswer" racket from the other side. Now I wouldn't recommend that they go so far as to bomb the headquarters of pro-life facilities as the pro-lifers have bombed abortion performing clinics. I would not advise that they congregate in large numbers in front of the homes of people who profess to be pro-life or even the spokespersons of the pro-life position. But I would recommend that they establish some political action committees, they begin to raise money and they start sending questionnaires to candidates in the same way that any other interest group will do that has a concern about how politicians feel on an issue. Then they should begin to hire lobbyists and lobby themselves so that this issue, which is highly political, will be handled in that fashion by both sides. Poll after poll has demonstrated that a majority of the people in America are in favor of and wish to see protected the right of a woman to choose to have an abortion without undue impediments placed in her path by the state. What we are seeing here is an attempt to shackle a physician in his or her performance of a procedure that is legal under the law, in a procedure that is legal under the law. If a doctor performed an appendectomy when he or she had permission to perform a tonsillectomy, that gives rise to a lawsuit based on malpractice but it does not constitute a crime. There is nothing in the law that makes a legal surgical procedure a crime. But we come to this procedure and want to make it a crime. The crime consists not in improperly performing it, not in doing harm by performing it but by not jumping through a hoop that a vindictive group of people are interested in erecting to make the abortion decision