

tremendous amount of influence in that committee in the way that we think and ask questions and deal with bills. But I want to talk a little bit about this bill in particular and there are some real pros and cons and there's not one bill that we're going to pass here that's going to be foolproof, that somebody's not going to be able to manipulate for the wrong reasons and I don't care if it's from Senator Schmit's bills concerning the power companies, to Senator Lindsay's bills with prostitution, or whatever. They're all going to have some problems and somebody is going to be able to have a case that you will be able to stand up on the floor and just become outraged over and it really is our job to set a framework and a system to allow prosecutors to work within that. One of the major problems with extending the statute of limitations is going to be the family that comes in three years and maybe a week or two after an incident has occurred and they're going to have a case that you're most likely going to believe. You know, the kids are of an age that you can listen to them and talk to them and you're going to go, well, they did it, and as a prosecutor you're going to go, you know, we've got to be able to prosecute that, we've got to be able to convict those people because what they did was wrong. And so you look at that and at first blush every case that walks in your door looks pretty good. It's kind of like a lot of bills that the first time you hear it you say, well, that doesn't sound so bad. The more you work it, the longer you look at it, the tougher that case becomes. And Senator Smith has some tremendous frustrations about a case that she had. I don't know why those cases are knocked down from a felony to a misdemeanor but every case isn't perfect, in fact, most cases have a lot of problems with it. A lot of times your only witness is a child. Do you know how hard it is to have a child stand up in front of 12 jurors, the bailiff, the sheriff, the judge in a robe, lawyers on both sides and you're going to have family members in the back? A lot of times the guy that is alleged to have done the crime is going to be somebody they trusted, somebody who is a grandfather, an uncle, a stepfather, a baby sitter. Do you know how hard that is for them to stand up and testify against those people? The longer we extend this, the longer period of time there is from the time the crime occurred to when we go to trial. If you extend it to five years, you may well look at a trial six years after the time that it occurred. Well, six years to myself or Senator Lynch or Senator Hannibal may not be a very long time but to a child that could be twice their life. You know, if they're 12 years old now, they have only...they only had six years of their life