

floor. We have been subjected to a great deal of diatribe and for various reasons, and I'm sure they're sincere, but I think it's time that we do reconsider the amendment and get on with voting this bill up or down. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The member from the 40th District, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I have really not talked about the issue since it's been here and I think you all know that I have very strong feelings about it. Senator Landis, I disagree that the proponents can no longer answer the opponents' questions. I think that the opponents' questions have been answered and answered. And I think now what's trying to be done is to stop the harassment. And I believe that as important as the opponents feel about this bill, I think that also the proponents feel just as strongly about it and that's why the debate has gone on like it has. And I would like to...I guess, to compliment Senator Rogers that he did bring the real thrust of the matter to the body. And I would like to address these remarks to Senator Chambers especially because I think he understands, has a pretty deep understanding of the scientific process. We are talking about abortion. We are talking about destroying a life. That life, I do believe, begins at the time of conception. There is a process whereby the spermatozoa enters the cell wall of the ovum and at that very instant fertilization has taken place, and within minutes implantation takes place at which time that fertilized ovum begins to receive its nourishment from the wall of the uterus of the host. At that very time that the spermatozoa enters the cell wall of the ovum, cell division begins to take place. Now no one can make me believe that that is not life. Life begins with conception, period. It doesn't begin three weeks later, 12 weeks later, 14 weeks later, it begins at the moment of fertilization. That life is very real and it doesn't matter at what stage you try to remove that life from the uterus, there is pain involved. It's a traumatic experience. It is nothing less than murder. You cannot describe it any other way and this is what we are talking about, folks. We're talking about murder. We can go with the bleeding hearts. We can listen to all the rhetoric and I do think at some point during this discussion the rhetoric reached somewhat of an all-time low for which I was quite disappointed and I would like that to be part of the record also. I second some of the things that Senator Labeledz said when people start talking