

made a decision, let's stand by our decision and let's move on to a further decision on retribution to the American Savings and State Security depositors. It's unfortunate for those depositors that Commonwealth has been a part of this because, as far as I see, this year they will not receive any money. I feel that maybe next year, maybe if this bill fails, maybe if these proposals fail, we can get on to giving financial retribution back to American Savings and State Security depositors. The votes aren't here. There are not 30 votes, maybe there is, I don't know. But there sure isn't 25 to pass this and to overcome it. We've talked on this a long time, let's end the discussion by not voting to suspend the rules. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Beyer, on the suspension. Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Abboud, you're right, we have spent a lot of time on this issue, not too much today, but just for one second more. I, too, would beg of you to give us the opportunity to address the issue and at least vote on it straight up. You've got to understand, and I know you do understand that there are thousands of individuals involved here watching what we do today, and these are people that are not politically sophisticated, they are exhausted from the ordeal they have been through. And it's very difficult to tell them yesterday, as I did when I was interviewed after the Attorney General's Opinion came out, that the good news is that the Attorney General has said we can do this, we can constitutionally provide return of the money to the depositors in these institutions. But time is running out in the Legislature. The bill that would do that is sitting on General File and it doesn't look like we're going to have the opportunity to bring it up. And they don't understand why, now that a green light has been put up there to give them the chance to go forward and constitutionally deal with this issue, they won't have the opportunity to proceed. So, on a procedural vote, one that requires five more votes than we need to pass the bill, I'd, as Senator Landis has, beg of you to give us the chance to address this issue. You know there have been some misconceptions, I think, by Senator Goodrich and Senator Abboud about where we're at on this issue, that we did give \$8.5 million to the Commonwealth depositors and now they're coming back for more. But you have to understand, we had a \$20.5 million plan that \$12 million of which was eliminated, and \$8.5 million of which was passed. So there never was an