

the clock run. Now, I had the bar exam and it was a simple matter, I mean, I could have retaken that and it wasn't the end of the world. My guess is that each of you have had one of those kinds of moments where you had done what you could do, but you had to wait to find out the results, and that was the most trying time of all. It wasn't the trying time when you were putting in your efforts and your energies, but when you had to just sit there and wait for somebody else to do their job, that was the worst. Well, that's the situation that the Commonwealth depositors find themselves in because they have to wait on us and our scheduling and our rules and our protocols for an answer on the legitimacy of their claim. Now if the answer is yes, terrific; if the answer is no, at least they can plan, but as long as it is up in the air, they have the same kind of reaction that you and I know happens when you just have to endure the agony of waiting. Now the reason they are waiting is because we have a rule and that rule says we've got to wait for 45 days, backlog all the A bills, backlog all the budget issues and then deal with them at one time. Well we've tried that one time with this issue and, frankly, it got locked in with a lot of other things and the steam came off the bill. But the teachers didn't have to wait, the property taxpayers didn't have to wait, the Legislature didn't have to wait, nobody else had to wait but the Commonwealth depositors. They were on the hook, over the summer, as their frustrations grew, over the fall, over the beginning of this session as well. I know many of you here believe in the legitimacy of that claim. I also know a large number of you don't believe in the legitimacy of that claim and that's a fair position to take, but what I hear is this. When I go to you and I sit there right next to you in your chairs and I ask you about this measure, I get something that says, listen, Dave, I have a lot of compassion for the depositors, but my constituency doesn't support it and I don't think it is due and owing. How many have said something like that? Perhaps you said it to the people who have called you or written you. Perhaps you said it to a lobbyist or perhaps you said it to one of the members of the body who supported this issue. This is the phrase I hear over and over again. I got a lot of feelings, I got a lot of compassion, my constituency is against it and, frankly, I don't think it is due and owing. I want to ask you about that first part of that expression, Dave, I got a lot of compassion, I just can't go for the issue. All right, if you can't go for the issue, that's the second half of the proposition, but today this question is the first part where you said to me, Dave, I got a lot of compassion, I just can't vote