

on the bill, I think you say, listen, these were citizens petitioning their government for action and they deserved an answer. They have been on the hook for six years. They were on the hook all over the summer with their bill on Final Reading. We knew the issue was there and we gave them a timely answer. And I think there isn't a constituent in the state who wouldn't be...who wouldn't accept that answer to the question, why did you vote to suspend the rules? I accept the notion that this is not a precedent. There is no other issue like this. This, I think, was a point well made by Senator Scofield and I think, by the way, is the answer to Senator Hannibal's very thoughtful and appropriate speech. Let me conclude by saying that in dealing with this procedural matter we, on the procedure, lose nothing. We gain time, we gain timeliness and we save some heartache, but we lose nothing. Beyond this point is the issue of, do we pay Commonwealth or not? And that's a donnybrook, fair enough. We have very strongly held opinions, let's go after those, let the chips fall where they may, but the procedural question of how long these people have to wait before we will tell them what our convictions are is no skin off our nose, but very important to them. We can have this much compassion. Even if you oppose the measure, you can reach out and do this much closing of the difference, acknowledging of the harm and the injury and the hurt and making a simple gesture of at least ending the agony of the wait. I ask you to vote for the suspension of the rules. And, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask that we have a call of the house, then a roll call vote in reverse order. I want everyone to be here while we do this.

PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, to go under call.

PRESIDENT: The house is under call. Please record your presence. Those not present, please return to the Chamber and record your presence. I understand four are excused. Requires 30 votes and a roll call vote in reverse order has been requested. Senator Ashford, will you check in, please, and Senator Nelson. Looking for Senator Hefner, Senator Moore, Senator Morrissey. Senator Chambers, will you check in, please. Thank you. We're waiting for Senator Hefner and there he is. Mr. Clerk, roll call in reverse order.