

are they doing this? Because if we could get to the root of that question, why, that is where we need to attack. Because even if we agreed with 976, even if we agree with Senator Johnson's amendment, the question of why would not be answered. We are not attacking that problem and the situation would continue to exist, and I have a difficulty, I have a problem with that. Senator Pirsch is absolutely correct, we need to send the messages out there. But how many times do we keep sending the message? How many times do we keep saying, well, apparently we are not being strong enough, we need to send a stronger message? When maybe the message is being received but maybe we are not going at the right...doing the right process. Maybe the message we need to receive ourselves is the message of what we are doing in our society that is driving our children to use these drugs. Maybe instead of we always wanting to send a message, maybe it is time for us to receive a message.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And the message is our children are crying for help for one reason or another. Our children are escaping through illegal drugs for one reason or another, and they are crying for help and they are sending us a message, and we are responding to the message of help from these kids by saying we are going to punish you more. And I have a problem with that, and I think we need to really think about that as a body. I think we need to really think about that as a body. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Pirsch. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? Those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Shall debate now close? Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Landis, would you like to close on the adoption of your amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, let me open by saying that with the number of people off the floor, I think that there is a chance that they won't understand the intricacies of the amendments. I would like to ask for a call of the house. I will give a brief closing and then we can proceed to the vote. I ask for a call of the house, Mr. Speaker.