

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, and members, I rise to oppose Senator Chambers amendment to the amendment, and he probably gave you the best arguments for opposing the amendment was that it would wreak havoc on the provisions in statute with regard to having anything that resembled consistency across the board dealing with the issue of alcohol, although he does raise an issue that is a legitimate one in terms of consistency on the side of what is or is not harmful to young people, and old people for that matter, in terms of legal, illegal substances, whatever they might be, drugs, alcohol, or anything that might fall in between. So with that, I would just stand and oppose that because the...the amendment...because the provisions in the bill that I think he tried to strike earlier, the last four lines of the bill dealing with the issue of it would not be a defense from prosecution to not be aware that an individual was a minor would wreak havoc on the spirits industry, if you will. You know, currently we deal with the issue of a minor book, we deal with all kinds of stuff in the bar business, and it is extremely difficult now to even plead your case when you have done all the things that are provided for in statute and you still have serving a minor put to you as a restaurant or a tavern owner, you are in an extreme disadvantage, and if you adopt the Chambers amendment, you just, I think because of the section in the bill that would not allow a defense for prosecution based on the fact that even this individual could show ID that even to a trained eye would lead you or me to believe as a person that is serving them that they were of legal age, if you adopt it to this amendment, it wouldn't matter. They'd still be guilty, they'd still be in violation of a Class IC felony potentially, not to mention the issues...the penalties that are currently in law with regard to serving a minor. So it would be a double hit for those people who happen to be in the business, whether it be a restaurant or a tavern, but they would be I think doubly persecuted by this provision. So I would urge you to reject his amendment, even though I respect the fact that it is very consistent with the presumptions in the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Morrissey, please.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. I was going to rise to support the Chambers amendment but I see Senator Hall's point. I do agree with the intent of what Senator Chambers has done here. If we are going to do it, let's do it. If we are going to impose these penalties on people for