

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, maybe this isn't all just a big waste. When I go through my mail on this issue, all of the various aspects, the waiting period, the parental notification, like I said, a lot of it is just very bitter with me and they simply don't like me anymore. Every now and then I come upon a letter that I read, completely disagree with me, at odds at all points, but the way the tone of letter is written in, the way they state things, I understand that we could sit down and we could talk about this issue and not go away hating each other, realizing we're both trying to do the right thing, we just haven't been able to come to a consensus. And when Senator Chambers and Senator Hall and I were talking here, agreed certain things should be done, it made me think and I thought of this before, maybe...maybe we need to caucus a little more on this floor, not partisan by any means, but maybe we need to set a couple days a week aside where we don't go out to lunch with a lobbyist, where we don't go out to lunch with anyone, where we sit down in various groups and discuss off the floor some things that we would like to accomplish and get done. That would do us a lot of good because sometimes a compromise on the floor can't be reached because of the dynamics here. You are afraid if you give here, people will see you as being weak or something and they get their foot in the door and they will keep asking for more and more, and because of the rules, somebody might use the rules to shut you down before you get all sorts of the compromise adopted. Well, maybe if we get off the floor a little more and discuss among each other...and I have been to...we all have these now, maybe the rural senators or the senators interested in the school issue or low-level waste, or anything, will get together and sit down and talk about it and it works pretty good. Instead of just getting all the people on the same side of an issue together, maybe we need to sit down in different groups and discuss the problems and maybe reach some compromises because I cannot believe that we can't reach a compromise on this issue, but it just...that seems the way it's destined to be. There is a problem. There are problems that exist. There were attempts to modify those problems, soften them and at times completely take them away but it was completely resisted. Sometimes the problem was it cost too much money. That statement, in itself, is a little discouraging but there was definitely a problem; costs too much money, takes some support away from the bill. We need to sit down and work some of these things out amongst ourselves, let the lobby stay behind the glass, let them take each other out for lunch occasionally.