

see any of the statistics, I mean, seen all of the statistics that show what happens in a state that does still have the death penalty. There is no indication from those statistics that the death penalty does prevent any kinds of crime. I don't think it does. I don't think that it prevents murders. I don't think that it does that. You do not see a lowering of the murder rate just because you have a death penalty in the state. I think it's an issue that my position on this issue is probably not the most popular stance to take in my district of the state because I think that most people in my district, if you would give them the choice of repeal the death penalty or to keep the death penalty, they're going to say absolutely keep it. But if you start giving them the choice and you start saying, such as this bill does, and you say, okay, if we repeal the death penalty and put in a lifetime sentence with no parole, the statistics start to change at that point and they start looking at it differently. And I think when you start talking to them about the costs that are involved in having...in a state that has the death penalty and what it costs us to go through the appeals process for the death penalty, I think that the attitude then starts to change and people start to think about it. I think that the idea of simply putting someone to death is not very appealing to anyone and I just can't...and I understand Senator Hefner saying, you know, the victims of these crimes go through all kinds of torture and I understand that and it does happen. But I don't think that putting to death a person that perpetrated that changes that. I don't think it does. I don't think that brings the person back. I don't think that takes the torture away. I don't think it does anything. So...and also this bill...this bill has 24 cosigners or whatever it is. I'm of the opinion that when you have that kind of an issue that is that important to that many members of the body, I think that the body should discuss that issue. This is a form of debate. This is where...this is where the issue should be debated. It should not be held in a committee, held hostage by the...by a committee with eight members on it. That's not the way it should be on an issue that is this important and that has many cosigners of the bill. So, with that, I would certainly urge that you would support Senator Chambers' motion and we would put LB 327 on General File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Speaker Baack. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I rise to speak in behalf of the motion. I start from the