

think that I agree with Senator Landis and Senator Wesely, who has just spoken, that these issues that are moral issues, that engender a great deal of moral discussion on moral issues, need to be discussed in this body, and that those issues, especially as Senator Baack said, issues such as this that have 24 signatories on the bill should be debated on the floor of the Legislature and not held in committee. I appreciated very much what Senator Warner said, and I...last year Senator Schmit said somewhat the same thing, that over the years they have listened to the debate on the death penalty, have been here for a number of years and have considered the various arguments, have changed, in fact, changed their positions on that issue as they have been here. And I remember Senator Schmit saying that a couple of years ago in a very graphic way. And I, too, have listened to the debates and have changed, to a certain degree, my view on the death penalty. I felt coming in that the abolishment of the death penalty under current law, that is without a life sentence without parole, would probably not be the appropriate public policy decision to make. And that was essentially my position coming into the Legislature. And I am glad that Senator Chambers has amended the bill to provide for life imprisonment without parole. But I also, I think, have moved somewhat in my deliberations of this issue to the points made by Senator Warner and others, and that is that even if that weren't in the bill, I would consider the death penalty as being an inappropriate penalty. But I'd like to comment on a couple of points that have been made by the opponents or the proponents of the death penalty, one is the victims issue. It's very difficult to generalize, in each case, what...or how victims feel about a particular circumstance. Victims of family members involved in a homicide have different feelings. At the committee hearings on this issue I know there was, I believe it was a woman who came in and testified that life imprisonment without parole would provide closure for her, and that the matter could be over with, and their family could get on with their lives. There are others that have come in and said, well I think the death penalty should be applied because my relative or my loved one was killed by someone, and, therefore, I think that that perpetrator should be killed as well. But my point is that victims are not just one class. Victims are people that have different views and different concerns about the issue of the death penalty, like we do. So we can't lump victims into one class and decide that they all think one way or the other about an issue. Senator Landis said today, and he also said...I remember hearing him in a speech at Common Cause, one day, talk