

illegal. They could bring him in for something like cutting the phone wires, but...or yelling at her or doing something to her, threatening her, but that itself didn't carry enough penalty to keep the guy from continuing the harassment. This situation is still going on today. She's always being followed and called and watched and there is almost nothing the law enforcement can do to stop it. Sometimes the police do patrol that area more closely hoping that they can catch that individual on some traffic infraction and that would try to keep him away from the area. But restraining orders alone don't help this victim and some of these acts committed by the stalker don't violate such an order; and if it did, it would only result in a contempt of court citation. And once again, the penalty...not enough of a penalty to make the stalker stop his array of constant harassment. This is one situation that unfortunately is all too common for far too many people. What this bill would do is allow law enforcement to consider these types of acts as a pattern of behavior that can be prosecuted as a single offense of stalking. I guess I'd just ask your support of this LB 1098. Thank you. I'll be happy to answer any questions if I could.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Wesely, followed by Senators Wehrbein and Schmit. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I know time is running out so all I'm going to say is I rise in support of the bill. I have seen this in relation that I have, seen the impact on an individual. It's a terrible situation to have and I agree currently law enforcement's hands are tied and I would support the bill for many women who are faced with this type of harassment. It needs to be dealt with and I support the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Madam Speaker, members, I'll be brief; but I, too, know of an incident in my town a few years ago. And it's very devastating to the family and I applaud bringing this, Senator Robak, because it seems to be a problem and I wasn't sure how one could solve it. And hopefully this will do it because it is evidently more common than we'd like to admit and so I support the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit. Senator Pirsch.