

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Schmitt. Madam President and members of the Legislature, sometimes new senators take advice while they're talking from people who don't know what they're talking about. Senator Maurstad undertook to interrogate me. I didn't start the interrogation. He used the term "redundant" whose meaning, based on the way he uses it, differs from my understanding of the term. So when somebody undertakes to interrogate me, I'm going to respond and deal with what they say and if they don't know how to define a word, ask me how to define it, then we'll be on the same wave length. But if he thinks that what our little exchange was constitutes intimidation or an attempt at intimidation, he doesn't understand that word as I understand it either. There are some people, as the Old Testament said, who will hear a leaf crackle and say, a lion is in the streets, a lion is in the streets. And such people will flee when none pursues. So the debate often on this floor will become muscular, will become much more intense than that little tete-a-tete we had. That little set-to was nothing. That wouldn't even raise an eyebrow, except in the minds of certain people. Here's what I want to get across though as far as this bill. In my early remarks, I pointed out that the inclusion of this language would create a state cause of action. That keeps it, Senator Maurstad, from being redundant; it adds something. Under the ADA, a federal cause of action does exist. The inclusion of this language gives an aggrieved person a state cause of action, but there will be no cause of action, federal or state, if there is compliance with the ADA. If there are people who would stand on this floor and raise specific questions about certain aspects of the ADA that they think are inappropriate and would argue that, despite that disagreement, nothing can be done about that insofar as a federal cause of action is concerned, that would be one thing, because then they could argue that if we incorporate the entire ADA by reference in this manner and create a state cause of action, those parts of the ADA with which a person disagrees could be enforced in state court and the person doesn't think that ought to happen. These issues become complex and difficult because there are people who feel a certain way but they won't state what their real feeling and their real agenda is. I am very direct. I am blunt so that I can avoid misunderstanding, even if some tender feelings may be hurt. When we come to this place we bring our temperament and our disposition with us. My disposition is to be very direct and forthright. The removal of this language stains the integrity of the department that