

participated in by the most of us, some things need to be put into the record and people have to have notice served that the issue is not going to go away. As long as I am in the Legislature, this issue will be before us until we do that which is right, just and proper.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, just a couple things and I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Chambers so he can answer this. As Senator Crosby said, you know I'd like you to...Senator Chambers, to answer the question on why do we need it? One of the things you mentioned in your opening was that 50 percent of the companies, of the big companies have a policy, or that they already do it, if that's already going on, why do we need this? If you would answer that, and I'll give you the rest of my time to do that, I would, please, like to have that.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Madam President, members of the Legislature, we do have companies that are already doing this because they are wise and they're interested in making a profit. There are others which do not and, for those which do not, people must be given protection under the law. I doubt that anybody would stand on this floor and say that a person who has an obligation to support others should not be allowed to have a job and earn the money by which that can be done. But by failing to give protection to those where we know protection is needed, puts us in a position of being complicit with injustice. There are senators on this floor who I know would not hesitate to vote for a bill such as this if they were not aware of what they think the public's perception would be of their voting for a bill like this and their very fear of voting shows the pervasive nature of this kind of discrimination. It puts people in fear, so we cannot stand on the floor being afraid to discuss the issue or vote for it and say we don't believe that there is discrimination out there. We know that it is. I have an article which describes a tragic occurrence. It is dated January 28 of this year, 1995, from the Omaha World-Herald, page 1. A 17-year-old Benson High School student who said he was homosexual and was living in an Omaha foster care home hanged himself with a rope Tuesday