

moral justification for denying homosexual persons access to the basic requirements of human, social existence. Goes on to say that members of their church ought to work for the passage of laws that prohibit discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodation. He goes on to say that contrary to some myths and stereotypes, and obvious to you I'm certain, he says, gay and lesbian persons are stable, productive, valuable members of mainstream society. Sometimes threatened simply by virtue of their sexual identity, they are entitled to the same protection of...from unlawful exclusion guaranteed members of any...guaranteed members of any threatened group. Currently no such protection exists. I think it's kind of ironic that we're going to be debating on this floor, later this year, a bill on welfare reform. And we are going to be saying that it is in...I guess in the state's interest to see that every able-bodied Nebraskan is able to find a job and is able to go out and work to help support their families. And yet in the same...in the same breath almost we say, but yet if you are gay or homosexual, you know, you may not be able to find a job, you may not be able to keep a job, you may be subject to discrimination and harassment. And I don't think that's something that most Nebraskans would want to see or want to see happen. And I would encourage you strongly to support this motion and bring this bill to General File. And, with that, Senator Chambers, you can have anything that I have left.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Chambers, you have about two minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Madam President, members of the Legislature, since it does look like I'm going to be carrying the...I don't want to call it a burden. For me it's not burdensome to do this, it's...in fact, it's a pleasure for me to do it. Knowing that there is a group held in such low esteem, that people who are sympathetic to the group dare not even speak causes me to feel a particular satisfaction in being able and willing to speak for such a group of people. Maybe if I were being very, very naive, very whimsical or...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...or very idealistic, I would say that if, because I do all I can to help others, there will be others who will try to help my people, that's what I would say. But I'm