

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise in support of the Maurstad attempt to bring this onto the floor. I do it because I think, first of all, I think it's the right thing to do based on the testimony and the discussion that I've heard. And, secondly, I think, more importantly, many times, and we all know that we've had bills that have been brought to the floor that have had a terrible time getting out of committee and they've been discussed and before they are...after a great deal of discussion on this floor, maybe some changes are made and the bill becomes law. I think that what Senator Maurstad is trying to do is helpful. I feel like that, in talking to some of the people in law enforcement, that we tend to tie the hands of law enforcement continually in attempts of them trying to enforce the law and this gives them an option to be able to un...maybe slightly untie their hands. So I feel like that what he is trying to do is proper. I'm like Senator Bromm, it's not in my liking to bring bills out of committee that have been killed by the committee because I sometimes think that that's probably the proper place for them to be taken care of. On the other hand, there are times when mistakes can be made and maybe judgments are not exactly what they should be and so I think we should give an opportunity at least to discuss this on the floor and see if we can't come to some rational conclusion to the issue. So, with that, with that attitude I'm going to support the bringing this bill to the floor. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, let me make two preliminary types of comments. First of all, I signed onto this bill originally because I thought that Senator Maurstad had made a marvelous effort to try to bring some sophistication and some concepts to this area that are badly needed. And I think several of the concepts in the bill are very good. I also am not one who is opposed to raising something out of committee in the appropriate circumstances, but in this particular instance I feel like I want to keep the pressure on those who are taking rights away from victims, to keep the pressure on them. And, by keeping this bill in committee, that's what you're doing. Now this bill represents a marvelous coming towards the position of looking to the rights of the victims, in these cases. And these people are victims, these are classic victims. And, because this bill has been held