

willing to continue looking at the issue. I cannot vote for this amendment because I think it is inappropriate in the direction that it is taking, but it does make the treatment of the two forms of the drug the same. But a lot of times treating things the same does not mean that we are doing that which is equitable and proper. I can still offer my amendment to the bill, and I know there are a lot of senators in hiding. I know that because if a cloture motion was made, you'd see them scurrying in here like happens when you raise a rock, so I know they're hiding, and they know that I know, and I think it's very inappropriate for them because they will run around here talking about how crime is such a serious problem. They say that we are not accomplishing anything in the Legislature because they are not here aware of the things that are being done, but I'm going to tell you what is heartening. While I was talking to this empty Chamber, virtually empty Chamber, there have been about six senators who have stuck it out, and I am not going to call your names because it will get you in trouble in your districts if I'm the one who call your name and want to give your credit for something. They'll say, see, they sold out. They're working with that Chambers. Well, why do you say that? He called their name and gave them credit. So I'm not going to do that to you, Senator Hudkins. But, anyway, there were calls coming into my office of people who were thankful that I was doing what I was doing, and a little tally was kept, and they want me to hang in there, which I'm going to do anyway. But I will tell you what, it is encouraging to know that in addition to the few people who've stayed on the floor that there are people out there who recognize the seriousness of what it is we are dealing with, and recognize that the approach we're taking is not the desirable one. And I will offer this same amendment. This bill probably, at some point, will wind up getting to Select File, and the committee amendments probably will have been attached, so I am going to offer the amendment again, and I hope that some of the people who are in hiding will for some reason be here with us. I started to say something, but I am going to fight the temptation. If this amendment is voted down, then we will be left with the law as it is, the disparity. So although this is not doing everything I would like to see done, this at least takes away that difference in the way the two forms of the drug are treated. I see Senator Abboud coming back, and I'm going to ask him a question to assure you that what I've said is not a misrepresentation. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Abboud, would you yield to a