

only to educate the public but to educate my colleagues to the point where we can even seriously consider this issue and discuss it. I'm bringing it to you this morning. I'm doing it in all seriousness. I intend to continue bringing legislation of this kind as long as I am in the Legislature. It seems to me somehow inconsistent to demand that rights be granted to all groups, then at the same time we allow discrimination against others. As a person discriminated against because of skin color, I would never say that sexual orientation places the same type of obstacles in the path of a person as skin color in America, or that it places burdens as heavy as those placed on a person because of skin color in this society. I, in no way, equate the two in terms of quality of discrimination or even quantity, but I don't believe that any discrimination is justified. It would be similar to saying that if you have cancer, you're entitled to treatment. If you have pneumonia, you're entitled to treatment. If you have an ulcer, you're entitled to treatment. But if you have AIDS you are not because people are offended in their way of thinking at the way you may have come across that disease. I don't think the discrimination is justified. This bill would apply only to employment situations where more than 15 people are employed. In addition, I had mentioned the exemptions. Religious operations are not covered by the reach of this bill. No act which currently is illegal is made legal by this bill. So all of those...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...are red herrings. I want the issue presented squarely before us and that is the way LB 21 was drafted, that's the way this amendment is drafted. We are looking at the issue of whether or not in Nebraska the Legislature believes that because of a person's sexual orientation, whether heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual, can be a basis for denying that person employment in the first instance, terminating that person if they're already working and this information comes out, or preventing that person from obtaining all the other benefits that are associated with employment. I hope you will vote to adopt this amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Before we go through the speaking list on the amendment, I would like to announce to the Legislature that your benefactor for the cinnamon rolls this morning is Senator Jim Jones. He and Pat are celebrating their 42nd anniversary. Am I right, Jim? And