

right out of the blue. It also was published in our Journal on May 9th, and so those that have taken an active interest in the crime bill were aware of the amendment and the filing of the amendment. But the main point that I want to indicate here, this is an omnibus crime bill. It has a variety of issues. This is another one. The bill was referred out of committee and because of the number of amendments to it was put back to committee. The bill came out of committee again with a set of amendments that the committee approved of and the Chair of the committee approved of. That was then divided into nine parts, I believe. They were discussed, cloture was invoked, nothing but what the Chair of the committee and the Judiciary Committee, itself, wants us to discuss relative to the crime bill this year has anybody had an opportunity to discuss. We're there again. The first amendment before us is an amendment by the committee Chair. It's divided into multiple parts, I believe double digits, and more than likely we will discuss each of these to great length and cloture will be invoked and the bill would be advanced to Final Reading with, once again, no issues being discussed except for those that the Judiciary Committee wants and will allow us to address. It's for that that I took this. I admit, Senator Beutler, this opportunity may be in a technical, may be in a procedural move to bring this issue before the body to discuss because I believe, of its timeliness, this is more than just about guns. So that again is not something that has not been, as I've watched the deliberation of this body the past 85 days people use technical and procedural processes all the time, and so I think it's legitimate to bring this issue before us. I believe the Chair has ruled appropriately that it is germane. I believe it is an issue that if we're allowed to get to the substance of the amendment, because it is a well-known issue, should not take that long to work through and I believe that it's something that we need to address and is important to the citizens of this state. So I would ask the body to uphold the ruling of the Chair and vote against the motion to overrule. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Abboud, your light is next.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, members, I rise in support of the Chair. The issue, I feel, whether or not I'm going to end up voting for the bill is prob...or the amendment is another issue, but I felt that our interpretation of germaneness is consistent with what the Chair ruled in that it deals with a