

SENATOR WESELY: Oh.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: ...and it needs to happen because their expenses are increasing more so they need to change it. It hasn't been changed for several years.

SENATOR WESELY: I see, there is no opposition that you know of.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: There was no opposition, no.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, never mind. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Madam President, members, I will just take a moment. I rise in support of the section of the amendment that calls for the repeal of the 2 percent tax on gross proceeds of keno revenue. It was bad public policy when we passed it. It was clearly unconstitutional when we passed it. The court saw that this piece of legislation was unconstitutional, and I am very pleased that we are finally repealing it. I believe I've carried the repealer for three or four years. And it will be one less bill for the General Affairs Committee to kill every year. So I know the committee is happy now that they'll have one less bill to worry about next year. So I support the amendment, and, particularly, the section of the amendment that deals with the 2 percent. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in dwindling support of this amendment, and I still support it. I disagree completely with everything Senator Abboud just said, but the fact is that he is correct in that the Supreme Court has struck down the thoroughbred assistance tax, and for that reason, I think it's only we're doing our obligation as state senators to repeal that. Although I resist it, I will punch the green button when the vote comes, but in general terms I wanted to make a couple of statements. I think this is an area that, yeah, we've talked about a lot of important things this session. We've talked about crime. We've talked about welfare. We've talked about any number of things that are extremely important, but the fact is this is an area that we have not visited enough, that we had a bill summarily killed that dealt with the gambling area, and it is something