

the amendment does. I would be happy to try to answer any questions, any questions you might have about the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Madam President, and members of the Legislature, now it begins, but there's something I want to say first before I begin my part of this two-hour discussion. I read where the Speaker said that politics has nothing to do with this bill being before us, that the public is demanding it. I accept that. Politics has nothing to do with this bill. Coincidentally, Senator Day withdrew her bill so that more time was freed up for this bill. I also read that all the sen...well, not all, but senators were getting calls from their constituents berating the Legislature about not passing this bill. Nobody, whether it's in the form of an editorial or articles, has explained the serious flaws contained in this bill. They have been...the public has been given the impression that this is a well-craft...well-crafted, well-thought-out piece of legislation instead of a piece of contradictory, inconsistent, impractical, unworkable trash. So they...the public has been allowed to think that bill, if enacted in its present form, will end crime as we know it. That is preposterous and ridiculous. It is not going to have any impact on the crimes that are committed. It's not going to do anything like that. What it can do is increase overcrowding. It definitely will reduce plea bargaining because there's no need to. Running the risk of these stiff minimum sentences will take away that incentive. Since more people are going to demand trials and they will be jury trials, there will be increased costs to all of the counties where these jury trials will be held. Because that demand for increased jury trials will clog their little systems, more individuals are going to be held in local jails awaiting trial. All of us who are familiar with the law and those of you who are not, see a boon in this bill. If a person is not brought to trial within six months, the charge is totally dismissed and cannot be refiled. So if you succeed in clogging up the courts through insistence by these people charged under crimes that can carry these possible heavy sentences, asking for jury trials, then there will be some dismissals because of the six-month time lapse. That has happened with juvenile cases in Douglas County already. So this bill creates a lot of problems. The article that I handed around is designed to demonstrate a point that I continuously harped on, to use a term that some of you all may have felt