

of course, is under the north balcony. If you'd stand and be recognized, Doctor. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of Senator Abboud's amendment and of LB 645. As Senator Witek indicated, Senator Witek, myself, and Senator Abboud each had different versions of the same issue try to come to having the state of Nebraska join our sister states in adopting a sexual offender registry. We are one of the last states to take this step, and I very much, as Senator Witek said, feel we need to take this action. The thing I wanted to mention was, respond to Senator Chambers' comments about the term "predator", which is at issue here. I would be willing to look at changes in that language, but there is in our dictionaries in the back of the room, I did go to take a look. And as Senator Chambers talked about predator, in the dictionary talks about predator is one that preys, destroys, or devours. And then the second version, definition of predator is an animal that lives by predation. So although it does reference an animal and we do think in that term, it is also first thought of as an action, and that can take place either by a human being or by an animal. In the other dictionary we talk about predatory, first is pertaining to and characterized or consisting in plundering, pillaging, or robbery; two, addicted to or living by plunder; three, we talk about destructive, consuming, wasteful; and then fourth, we talk about of an animal that preys on other animals. So although Senator Chambers is right, the predator and predatory can, in fact, refer to animals, it, in fact, is more of an action. And the action that we're talking about here is exactly right when we use the term "predator". And the reason I'm somewhat defensive is that a bill before the Judiciary Committee, LB 1206 is sexually violent habitual offenders, we talk about the Sexual Predator Act. It is a shortened version of who we're talking about and it conjures up an image, and Senator Chambers is correct, it's a very negative image, but I think it's an accurate image, of individuals who prey on our young, on our vulnerable and take advantage of them sexually and in a violent fashion. These individuals, I think, you would talk to the people on the street, and in some cases, the reference to animals would be I think something supported by some individuals. But nevertheless, the actions that they take harming others, that they are individuals that, in some cases, simply can't control themselves. They don't have the ability to stop the actions that they take in harming children and others.