

February 22, 1996 LB 645

they're even caught. And then you've got to go through the court system in addition to that and all the hoops and, and fences you have to jump through there just to be...these individuals are individuals who are convicted, who have spent time in prison, we're not just talking about in someone's opinion, we're talking about individuals who are convicted and in prison and have been subject, in many cases, to intense counseling, and we just adopted an amendment to clarify that. This, to me, is...weakens the bill considerably. It will take it out of the federal guidelines. We need to stay together on getting this bill forward and not adopt these amendments. I will support amendments that I can support and I will rail against amendments like this one that seriously harm the bill, that make it much more difficult. You stand here and define sexual intent to me, Senator Chambers, or Senator Beutler had a similar amendment. You two stand there and...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...tell me what a sexual intent or purpose is. And then you tell me how this is going to be determined, how you can get into somebody's mind like you would and determine what their intent was. Or maybe they didn't have the time to do something like this during an act of this kind. I mean the possibilities for many people slipping through with this type of language are endless, in my mind. And I don't think either one of you can stand up here and define exactly what a sexual intent or purpose is. And if you do define it, then you better go through all the rest of our statutes and define it likewise in all of them. So I would ask you not to support the Chambers amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Crosby, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry I wasn't at my desk. I just have a question that I would like Senator Abboud or Senator Witek to answer, and then this will clarify a little bit for me about the federal government telling us that we have to have this language in the bill. What is the hammer they use? Do we lose funds now? Do we get some kind of money? What is it? Why, why do we care? Why do we feel that the federal government can do something to Nebraska for not having it? I'm just trying to follow along. All right, Kate, you're going to answer it.