

what people will do. They're out there, they know what the language is, they're aware of this law, there is no reason for us to weaken Nebraska's law so that that might happen. It's already, I believe, happening because we don't have anything in place. We have to have this in by 1997, yes, to comply with the federal law and to receive some of the funds to help us to comply. That's outside of my concerns, to tell you quite honestly. When I saw the map that Nebraska was one of only three states now who don't have this law, you could have told me that we would get zero money, it wouldn't matter to me how much money we would get. I would still want to push this law as soon as possible this year. So I hope members of this body will hang in there through all the Chambers amendments...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR WITEK: ...that this would need be.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers, you are recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Senator Witek revealed her lack of understanding of how the criminal law works. The onus is always on the state to prove every element of the offense. It is not up to the defendant to prove anything or disprove anything. Under the constitution, for which she has no respect and no regard, a person cannot be compelled to testify against himself or herself, do or say anything that would incriminate himself or herself. Therefore, the state, when it decides to bring a charge against a person and use all of the powers and wealth of the state to convict that person and punish that person, the constitution requires the state, without any assistance from the accused, to prove every element of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt. And Senator Witek does not like that. That's her prerogative. The people in her district sent such a person down here, they have to suffer with her. And I have to suffer as a result. But I'm not going to suffer in silence, I'm going to fight. And I hope you all will hang through all my amendments because we'll be on this bill for eight hours on Select File. And you will advance it. And we'll be on it eight hours on Final Reading. What I'm offering is reasonable. If my intent had been to fight and badger this bill all the way across as Senator Witek dishonestly suggests, I would not have agreed with Senator Abboud to let it