

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Chambers, and, Senator Beutler, I will very appropriately respond to your offer, and I would concur with it wholeheartedly. I certainly, in order to try to discuss and if we can work out the concerns of Senator Chambers and other members on this floor relative to issues regarding this legislation, if it will appropriately accomplish what I intend to accomplish with this bill, I am certainly...I am certainly willing to move this to Select File and I'll let it sit. I won't prioritize it. I'll let it sit until next year. I'm willing to do that. I have said repeatedly that, Senator Chambers, I am listening to what you say. I am aware, I understand the feelings that you have that are extremely strong relative to this, and when I say I understand, I don't think that's probably true because I am not sure I really do understand. I don't think that I can understand, not because I don't want to but because I have not walked in those moccasins, as Senator Schmitt talked about yesterday. And so I can empathize but I can't say that I totally understand. I think that there are ways that...that we can try to continue to put into this legislation and into law means of trying to protect any person from undue harassment. I think in the National Urban League letter, and I hope you'll all take some time to read it because I did. I read a paragraph and a half. This isn't the whole context of the letter. Take time to read it in its entirety because it's all extremely important, and I think it...it shows the National Urban League's support for mandatory seat belts, and it does also, as Senator Chambers has stated and I've stated, tells you about the concern that they have for the...for the ability of law enforcement or for opening up an opportunity for law enforcement to harass whoever, not only young black males but others, and I think it's important when they talk about the court's decision, that Senator Chambers did appropriately bring yesterday, their comment to that decision is we're extremely heartened and we're relieved by the court's very recent ruling, which provides appropriate guidance for what law enforcement officers can and cannot do when they stop drivers for infractions, and the same strictures will apply to state and local legislators considering laws in this area. That leads me to believe that there has to be some room here, Senator Chambers, for us to sit down with other senators to talk about