

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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are no further lights on. Senator Brashear, did you wish to close on AM2074 to LB 509?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Mr. President, that's why I waived off. Members of the body, I...we all use different methodologies in our service here and we use them to the best of our ability, and they can't help but be colored by politics, and I don't think that stands as some huge allegation. They are also colored by our principles. They are colored by our experience, and they are colored by our desire to serve to the best of our ability. We can always have the black and white example. I am sorry, I don't think this is about the death penalty. I know there are those who think that Senator Chambers is smarter than everybody else, including Senator Chambers, and that he has figured out that this is war on the death penalty. I'm sorry. And I can't help it if a majority of the people on death row are there because felony murder was used to put them there because that's an easier way to put them there under the given set of facts. And I'm not even opposed to that, but what I know is that the green copy of this bill in LB 509 would repeal felony murder, and I dealt with it in committee, and I've dealt with it since, and I was uncomfortable with it. And I believe that legislating is not just black or white, simple yes or no. I think sometimes it requires some hard work and some hard decisions, and I think it's incrementally done. And incrementally, I believe that this amendment which gives us life in prison without the possibility of parole, which gives us three more offenses, I can't speculate as to whether the six we have now will cover every circumstance. What I know is the sexual assault of a child and felony child abuse and first degree false imprisonment resonate with me as things which are serious. And the opportunity to make those violent crimes against people subject to felony murder is attractive to me. It's a lot more attractive than repealing felony murder. I think that this amendment is an improvement on the bill. I believe it's an improvement on our criminal code, and I don't think it's about the death penalty. I know we can see the death penalty in everything and I understand that we have a majority of people on death row under felony murder. Sorry, that's not where I am. I urge the adoption of the amendment as an improvement of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. The question