

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 18, 2003 LB 52

from there. This subject of discrimination because of sexual orientation is one that is not going to go away, at least not as long as I'm a member of the Legislature. I have offered a bill on numerous occasions. I will continue to offer a bill if necessary. What I consider to be a better use of time, a more efficient use of time, is the advancement of that bill so that the subject can be debated in the context of that bill. Any opinion that a person has which he or she desires to offer could be offered during that debate, and it would be a matter of record. But if the bill is not going to be brought to the floor, I must use other instrumentalities. Bills of others provide that opportunity. I mentioned to the committee this morning when we were in Executive Session that a U.S. executive order had been implemented prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in federal agencies. Executive Order 13087 amended Executive Order 11478. It was signed on May 28, 1998, and its purpose was to provide a uniform policy for the federal government to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. Section 1 of the amendatory Executive Order 11478 says the following: "It is the policy of the Government of the United States"...I want this language to sink in. The government of the United States of America, with liberty and justice for some, but definitely not all. What is the government of the United States of America? Abraham Lincoln took a shot at it. He said, that government of the people, by the people, and for the people. But do the people constitute the government? No. Is the government a collection of the three branches--executive, legislative, judicial--and the various agencies that have proliferated? Is that what the government is? That certainly is the formal structure of the government. Does the government consist of the laws, based on the constitution? Is the Constitution of the United States the government of the United States? No. Is the constitution the document that governs the government of the United States? Supposedly. And how does the government react to that document which governs it? It depends on which political party is in power and which particular brand of madness is sweeping through the country. But the Preamble, which is no part of the operative language of the constitution, starts: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union." That is grammatically inaccurate. It is logically