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LB 270

microphone and see if I could persuade you. I would understand a bill by you, because you and I have discussed your attitude with regard to hate crimes previously and off the record, and you serve as a member of the Judiciary Committee, I would understand a bill to repeal Nebraska's hate crime statute because that's where you honestly come from. What I...the reason I must go forward in the pursuit of my duty is because this body passed, in 1997, a hate crimes statute which, whether one agrees with it or not, is a representative, a good quality representative piece of work. It was...it became the law of the state of Nebraska. Just as the death penalty is the law of the state of Nebraska and we had a special session to bring our death penalty, which ironically I know you're on the other side of that issue, but we had a special session to bring...to make our death penalty, which was the law of the land of the state, to make it effective, what we are doing here is seeking to make the existing hate crimes statute of the state of Nebraska effective and not allow the will of the people, as expressed through their representatives, to be thwarted by a decision that involves procedure and not substance by the United States Supreme Court. So if I had a magic wand, which I don't, I'd wave it and we'd pass this bill so that our hate crimes statute, which is the law of Nebraska, would be in conformity with the Apprendi and Ring decisions of the United States Supreme Court, and you would introduce a bill to repeal that law and we would slug that out. Now I'm not saying that would necessarily persuade you, but that is...it's just like the committee amendment, as you well...or the amendment which I'm going to propose which follows next is another example of another law where the...and in that case the people of the state of Nebraska adopted it as a constitutional amendment and then the United States Supreme Court decisions, its victims' rights, are keeping us from providing that right to victims of crime. And so I'm...I think we're being entirely consistent in terms of process in trying to bring two existing laws of the state of Nebraska into conformity with Supreme Court decisions. I would also like to point out that at the time we had the hearing on LB 270, no...I would like the body to know that no one appeared in opposition to LB 270, making the hate crimes statute, as it exists since 1997 in Nebraska, conform to the Apprendi and Ring decisions, and we had the Anti-Defamation League, the Nebraska