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Legislature, have made a policy decision that it's a particularly heinous or bad crime on society. Is that accurate as well?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: That's correct, and we enhance the penalties in order to make a public policy statement that we will punish more...

SENATOR BOURNE: Exactly.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...for those...for that state of being or fact.

SENATOR BOURNE: Great. Thank you, Senator Brashear. Again, I rise in support of the amendment and the underlying bill. We have made a policy decision in this state, back in 1997, that we were not going to tolerate or we were going to enhance the penalties for those people who committed a crime because of hate. That seems to be a reasonable policy. I don't think that we need to condone hatred of any kind towards any person here in this state.

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: Again, I just wanted to make sure that the record is clear and everybody understands that you have to look at the state of mind. If you don't look at the state of mind, you can never have a murder conviction. You have to do that. Senator Brashear, I appreciate your diligence in reviewing these court cases and changing our law here in Nebraska in response to these cases. I, again, support both the amendment and the bill.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Foley.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'll waive off for now, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Foley.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if I can continue my conversation with Senator Brashear.