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FLOOR DEBATE

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existing statute is defective and needs to be brought into conformity with the Ring decision. I'm going to be very pragmatic about this bill. You may like the bill. You may want this bill on our books. And out of respect for you and the process, I'm going to reserve all of my rights under the rules. I may use them; I may not. We may be able to work something out here. And Senator Brashear have had some very cordial, professional, and candid conversations about how we might work out something that would at least mitigate my concerns. I'm not sure we're going to get there. I hope we can, quite frankly. And if we can, I'll withdraw any motions, any amendments, and so forth, I have to the bill. I'll, in effect, go away, which is the term we use here on the floor. I'll go away on this bill. I'm going to vote no on the bill. I'm going to tell you that right now. I'm going to vote no on this bill. I don't like hate crimes legislation. I think it's wrong. But I'm willing to make a reasonable offer to Senator Brashear and to others who really want this bill to pass. So I offer those words as just an introduction to where we're going to go this morning. I wonder if Senator Brashear would engage in some conversation.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you respond, Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR FOLEY: Senator Brashear, you and I have had some very cordial conversations about this legislation. Is that true?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes.

SENATOR FOLEY: (Laugh) I noticed some hesitancy.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, we've had a lot of cordial...I was just making sure I hit all of the qualifiers.

SENATOR FOLEY: Okay. All right. Let's walk through this again, because it's been a number of months since we debated this bill on the floor. I think it was last May or...April or May, something like that, when we talked about this at length last time. Help me to understand again the impact and the import of the Ring decision on our existing hate crime statute.