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joined the mainstream of society to lead productive lives. Is that not the purpose of why we created the punitive system that is in place--to rehabilitate people and help them be part of society again? Why do we do that and then put up another roadblock? That is unconscionable, morally, to me. They hold jobs, they...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: One minute.

SENATOR COMBS: ...raise families, they do volunteer work. They ought to be able to go to the polls on election day. I am not unfeeling for victims of crime. I myself, I've been the victim of crime twice in my life. I went to court and had the person sentenced, and walked out the door--he got three years--and I said, well, at least I won't have to worry about this guy bugging me for three years. The bailiff told me--this was southern California--lady, you'll be lucky if he's in there three weeks, with the kind of crime he committed. There's no room for him in there. And I was scared to death. I understand what it's like to be a victim. But I also understand what's right. It's not who's right; it's what's right. Let's do the right thing here by American citizens who have paid their debt to society, under the laws that we have created, and have a right to live and be productive citizens once they've done that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Time. Thank you, Senator Combs. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, there's a lot of reasons that we had limited amount of discussion on this bill in the last two rounds of debate. It's a public policy issue. It's still on the floor. We're in Final Reading. I think it's totally appropriate. But there's a lot of...like every other issue we have, there's a lot of rhetoric flying around. And what I would submit right now is that a lot of the reason...I think folks have mentioned and insinuated that a lot of the reason there's a bracket motion sitting there and this discussion is going on is because it's political. Because I sit...because...let me give you a hypothetical. Because I sit around and think, I don't want