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from away from others and you're saying, you know, we don't really care about you. And I think that we should become more enlightened as a state and I think a statement of intent accomplishes that. So I respect Senator Chambers' efforts in this regard. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Foley, your light is next.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. Let me start off by stating the obvious, which is that within this very Capitol building, and certainly throughout our state government agencies, there are persons employed who are homosexual. And I want them to know that I am deeply grateful for their service to me as a state senator to the extent that they may work in some area of the State Capitol that would be of assistance to me. And to the extent that they're employed by other state agencies, I want them to know that I'm very grateful for their service to the people of Nebraska. Having said that, we're working on a state budget. We're appropriating money to state agencies to fund the operations of government. I think it's entirely inappropriate to use this bill to try to advance a particular social agenda. And if this amendment is adopted, you're giving me license to do the same. Senator Chambers has a bill that's pending in the Judiciary Committee on employment discrimination. He attempted to advance the bill. It did not advance. There's another bill in the Judiciary Committee, a bill on human cloning. That bill has not had a vote yet, but it will get a vote before the end of the year, pursuant to some discussions that I've had with the Chairman of the committee. It wasn't a priority bill, didn't need a vote up till now. There's no reason to push for a vote because it wasn't a priority bill. But the bill will come to a vote later, and I presume the votes will be there to advance the bill to General File. Why couldn't I just take the language of this amendment and say it's the intent of the Legislature that the University of Nebraska shall not entertain any...engage in any biomedical research involving human cloning? Is that where we want to go with our state budget, to start bringing in these kinds of issues? The issues associated with Senator Chambers' bill are complex. They relate to whether or not a new protective class should be created