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to do before you engage in allowing this amendment to be adopted to the state's budget. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Kruse, you are recognized to speak.

SENATOR KRUSE: Madam President and members, thank you. There is a genuine question as to where is the appropriate place to put this policy. First, let's assume...or let me state for myself. I assume that's already our policy. It's an unspoken policy. I think we need to say it at some place. I would prefer that it be in statute, but we don't seem to come to that. In this particular place where it refers to all agencies, I consider that appropriate. The following amendments which pick out this and that one do not seem appropriate, and that's why I appreciate that Senator Chambers says this would replace all of those. I feel that we have a right to speak to our agencies, since we haven't made a clear statement on this, that...about the matter, for there is clearly a prejudice against gay persons in our society. In the United States, we kill one gay man every week because he is gay; fifty a year, every year. The Allen Shepard (sic--Matthew Shepard) got some publicity a few years ago. The next week there was another one; it's not picked up. This is a serious problem that we have to deal with. I would also join Senator Landis in saying this is the Christian thing to do. We have not spoken of it this time, but there are persons who have questions about whether this is Biblical. There is no Biblical reference to being a homosexual, not one verse, not one hint. This is not a Biblical matter. Jesus didn't speak to it in any sort of a way for those who are Christian. It is a matter of intense psychological feeling, emotions, on the part of many persons. I respect that. There are many persons who feel that they cannot associate with gay persons. I respect that. I don't have any problem in dealing with that. The question before us, however at this point, is public policy, and I think this is an appropriate place for us to state our public policy. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. Senator Erdman, you're recognized to speak.