

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 17, 2005

LB 312

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. I would yield my time to Senator Chambers, if he wants it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, almost 5 minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Preister, and maybe a couple more times, if anybody will. Then I will have said everything that I need to say. Also, it gives people a chance to make it to the Chamber. Senator Landis offered an amendment that garnered 24 votes the other day, and I'm reoffering it. I changed the drafting slightly. Instead of having the word "irrelevant"--for some reason, that troubled some people--I'm striking that and returning to the nondiscrimination language, but that will come up on another bill. That is so that Senator Landis won't think that I've forgotten about the state. The state should lead the way. But as I was getting ready to say earlier during the day, the flawed ethics of the marketplace have led business people to realize--not all of them--that discrimination against gay and lesbian people is against the best interests of the marketplace. The world is full of people, not just so-called straight people, all types of people, and some of them hold positions of authority. But I wrote a brief rhyme some years ago, and I'm going to read it. It's called "The Homophobe's Homily," and the "them" that I'm talking about you probably will know: They're everywhere, they're everywhere. They walk our streets; they breathe our air. They're under beds and on the stair, like lurking monsters in their lair. They're on the ships, they're in the air; they're working here, they're working there. On railroads taking travelers' fare, our cars and trucks they do repair. They serve as doctors giving care. They're lawyers seeking process fair. The garb of nuns and priests they wear. They've infiltrated everywhere. They've sat in the electric chair, and judges were who sent them there. They may have long, short, or no hair, be homeless or have cash to spare. They may be single or a pair; some play lion, some the hare. They like their meat well done or rare, and some for veggies only care. They play whist, bridge, and solitaire. No scarlet letter do they wear, no mark of Cain in forehead bear. The moral giants ooze despair, because they cannot lay them bare, nor snag them in escape-proof snare. To turn our backs we