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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, to open on your amendment to AM2700.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, rather than do as I've done on other bills when I was offering amendments, which is to take each change that I was going to make and offer it as a separate amendment, so nobody would think I'm pulling a fast one, Senator Friend was willing to look over what my suggested changes are. He agreed with them, so if you look on your gadget you will see what they are. The purpose is to balance the right of people under the Constitution to their freedom of speech to protest, and all of those things which--and it galls me to say this--being an American would entitle a person to. When you look at the content of what a person is saying, there can be no prohibition against that person speaking, simply because of what is being said. You've all heard that famous old saw, you cannot shout fire in a crowded movie theater, but that's not even true, because there could be a movie where somebody is being executed, and the person who's in the film says ready, aim, fire. And you could shout fire if there really is one. So some of these issues are not quite as simplistic, cut and dried as people would like. What Senator Friend recognized was that--and I won't say it's galling to him--but as galling as it might appear, these people cannot be prevented from protesting, from making their views known, regardless of how repugnant. If you have any questions of me, of any one of the proposed changes that I'm offering, I will explain it. But as I look at these pictures, having been reared in a church home, many verses suggest themselves to me. You see this picture in the upper left-hand corner as you look at it? It says, God hates fags. Then to the right in the other panel, it says God hates you. Well, for the first one, what about that verse that says God is love? Then what about that verse that you see flashed on the screen, even in the end zone at football games, not God hates--God so loved the world that whoever believe shall not perish. Well now, if these people are "Christians" and they believe the "Holly Bible," they'd have to accept that, and if they accepted it, in this middle pair of pictures, they couldn't have that sign which says it's too late to pray. John 3:16 doesn't place a time limit on it, so they're