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SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of the Chambers amendment and Senator Friend's amendment. When I first saw this bill come in front of the Judiciary Committee, I remember thinking that I wasn't going to support it, because I absolutely believe that people have the right to protest, they have the right to free speech, even if I don't agree with it. And I know that's kind of becoming a, almost an endangered species in this country, if we have a view that the majority doesn't believe in, that somehow it's wrong, and I disagree with that. Even if I don't agree with what that person says, I believe absolutely that they have the right to say it. So again, my first thought was is that we can't infringe upon free speech. Then we had the hearing; we had compelling testimony. Senator Friend did his work, had stories about various groups that come about and protest, not just military funerals but other funerals. It doesn't have anything to do with pro-life, pro-choice, pro-war, anti-war; it has to do with allowing families who have suffered a loss to grieve with some form of dignity. And we had a good hearing on that, on the bill. Jeff Beaty, the legal counsel to the Judiciary Committee, has done a great job in narrowly drafting this to achieve a balance. The folks can still have the ability to protest, as they should, and yet family members can grieve with some sense of dignity, and that's what the amendment does. Again, I support Senator Chambers' amendment that we're discussing now, as it adds a little bit of clarity, a little bit of narrowness, and I support Senator Friend's amendment, as well. I do thank Senator McDonald for giving up LB 287 to advance this forward, and thank you, Senator Friend, for this important bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. On with discussion. Senator Combs.

SENATOR COMBS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, want to thank Senator Friend for bringing this bill. I am a cosponsor of the bill, and it is important for all the reasons that have already been stated. I looked at Senator Chambers' amendment and went through, and it does do a much better job of clearing up some of the unclear language there that could be misconstrued, and I hope he keeps his calling and