

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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that he wanted me to suggest this to you, and so I am. It's my job to support the deliberations of the body and this is how I see it. Without a count, I don't think we'll reconsider. Upon a vote, I believe that we would advance. I'm a pragmatist. And we can work on this, notwithstanding all the progress we've made, I'm not certain we would make any more progress or come to any greater agreement between now and 11:59. At this stage of our session, we want to live to fight another day or to agree another day, and there is a way we can do that. With a cloture vote, we can move this bill. I will tell you right now that because of the importance of it, given the trust that you have reposed in me, which I try not to abuse, that even if it were to fail on the cloture vote, I would reschedule the bill again. What am I trying to do? We are going to have all of the ferment, all of the good ideas, all of the discussion, and all of the accumulated familiarity that we gain by debate but we have to be practical in terms of where we are. What I think we ought to do is send the signal that I believe I detect that the body wants to send, that there are 33 people to cloture this bill, there are people to advance this bill, that people are not satisfied with conduct which has heretofore taken place. And this is a major issue of monumental significance about our children and the future of our state and that we want to continue to work on it. If it doesn't advance tonight, we don't continue to work on it. So it needs to advance tonight in order that we can continue to work on it. And what I want to be careful about is, I'm not being presumptive upon any of you. But if it advances today so that it is on Select File tomorrow, then we can continue to work on it, continue to have discussions off microphone. We can continue to work on a methodology which I am trying to develop. And here's where I go far afield. Bear with me if you will, please. There is no better group to deal with this issue than this legislative body. It is our right, it is our privilege, and it is our duty. If we had 60 more days, we'd get it done in a way that satisfies an overwhelming majority of people for the good of everybody involved as we do other public policy issues. I fear we aren't going to get this one done that way in two days. So the vision I have is that we take it over to Select File.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.