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FLOOR DEBATE

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behind. And I will be flat out honest, and Senator Friend, you are not guilty as charged, you actually presented an alternative that you could support, and I appreciate that. But at where we stand today, and just, candidly, with the amendment before us, I will not be voting for Senator Howard's amendment. And it is not because that, had we had a discussion about this proposal, that I may not have supported. It's because this idea was filed on April 10, the substitute amendment was filed today; that's within seven days of the adjournment of session, which is an unconstitutional amendment, because it is a new idea introduced to the Legislature, and the fact that this would be adopted would kill the bill. But if the amendment was adopted, it would bring constitutional questions under the underlying bill, in addition to what some may argue are already there. So to take this to a vote and to read into that vote what it means, I'm letting you know why my vote will be what it will be, and it won't be because of the underlying issue, but because of the issues that surround the law behind that. But we did have the opportunity. We've discussed it. We've actually debated LB 1024 many more hours than we debated LB 126 last year, contrary to popular belief. I know that last year, LB 126 seemed like forever, and it did. And some may say that this has only seemed like forever for the last few weeks, and it probably has. But again, a viable option that I would have supported and I had offered to those that oppose LB 1024, prior to today, and we went through this process, was what I have outlined to you today. And we wouldn't have had to extend the session at that time, but we would have had to have cooperation and a unity of thought to get there. So where we stand today is a realistic up or down vote. And I could go for the cloture motion, in order to be fair to those that had to overcome that hurdle prior to this vote on this bill; and I could probably support the motion to suspend, because it's a rule of 25 that passes laws, and that's what we should be about. And there are members in this body that have voted for cloture on bills that they opposed, so that we could have an up or down vote. But it's Day 60, and we have worked hard. And there would be a viable option. I've shared this with Senator Bourne and others. It would require the commitment of other members to be here beyond today, but I don't know that we're willing to do that. But I'll throw that out there for your thoughts. Like I said, I'd be willing to