

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: I think I've talked about it enough. I waive off this time.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I have been encouraged...I doubt that the public will have this issue portrayed because it has probably been portrayed, through the media, and I have never criticized the media publicly in my life, but it probably has been more portrayed more incorrectly than any issue in my life that I've seen because when you listen, and as I drive in, strictly to talk shows that it is that the Legislature is not being audited and doesn't want to. You know, that is total misrepresentation. The only issue has been the one of whether the citizen had a right to contact the Legislature, as far as I'm concerned, confidentially, and I have really become convinced today in the Exec Board meeting when Senator Lindsay asked the Auditor if a citizen had a right to contact their senator confidentially, and the answer was no. And I became an advocate of a change from that point forward that was more strong than ever before. It's kind of interesting, I've sit and listened to quotes. Senator Moore mentioned Edmund Burke. Actually he should meet the speech at Bristol, England by Edmund Burke. The day I walked into this Chamber, one of my closest friends gave me a quote from that, where, in essence, it says you betray your constituents if you yield their judgment to yours, and I carried it with me until it got so tattered that it didn't hang together anymore. But I still believe that. The comments of Senator Hohenstein quoting Norris. I could not agree more with that. And we are dealing with an issue that, and I still go back, it is a legal issue, and it is going to be done in the courts. It only can be resolved in the courts, and I believe so strongly what Senator Abboud and others have spoken, and certainly the public has not had it portrayed to them, Senator Hall has mentioned, we are talking about a higher standard. There is no standard now. There is no standard now, not by law. There is no way that you can discipline an individual who is not a CPA that serves as Auditor and the previous Auditor was not a CPA. But now under this piece of legislation, the public is going and can expect and should expect and will be able to expect a level of auditing that exceeds, as had been repeatedly pointed out, that is greater than any other body. One other comment, you know the