

2-19-2020

Hello Sublette County, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you from Cheyenne on the eighth day of the 2020 Budget Session. This was an especially long day; we debated more than 40 amendments to the Budget, and ended the day at 10 pm.

During the morning, we worked through Third Reading on nearly ten bills. One of the more interesting bills we discussed was House Bill 8, Digital expression. This bill would provide limitations on criminal liability for digital expression. The question at the core of this bill is whether an individual should be held responsible when a piece of code they created is used for illegal and nefarious purposes. HB 8 says an individual is not responsible. I supported this bill because I think it helps facilitate an important conversation about how we regulate in the digital world. The bill passed the House of Representatives and will now be considered by the Senate.

This afternoon, we moved on to the Budget. Representatives had the opportunity to offer amendments to the Budget on a wide range of topics, from funding for University of Wyoming athletics, and directing tourism funding to shooting sports, to Medicaid expansion and more. We filed 108 amendments this year, and debated more than 40 of them (others were withdrawn for consideration before we debated). A full list of the amendments offered today can be viewed [here](https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2020/HB0001). [https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2020/HB0001]

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee that helped craft this Budget, it was my job to defend the Budget on the House floor today. The committee has spent the past several months going through every agency and department to fine tune and cut expenses where we can. I feel confident in the work we have done and hope the Budget will remain largely intact as it makes its way through the legislative process.

As always, I can be reached with questions or concerns at albert@albertsommers.com.

Thank you,

Albert Sommers