

amendment, of course, is that if you're going to meet and you're going to try to discuss what the states need to do, that discussion may involve constitutional amendments, it may, yes, it may. But to say that you can't even discuss them and you can't even put them into an action plan hampers the place severely. Senator Beutler had the, in his discussion talks about intent, what were we going to do? What options does the state have? What might this mushroom into? Those are discussions that I think are probably discussions to have on the floor. I would just want to make sure that people understand that this is not a constitutional convention, it can't act as a constitutional convention and take away the fears that you may have that it's going to go off and somehow take that through seven representatives of this state and give some implied authority to begin the constitutional convention process. Obviously that legally can't occur. I'm going to offer the amendment. I hope you do defeat the Witek amendment. I'll then offer, I have already put up there, the Kristensen amendment and I would hope that you'd adopt that. I don't think, and for the record, I don't think that that changes the articles or the resolution of participation enough that it would jeopardize any legal standing that it may have and, of course, what is important is for us to begin that participation, to give them the opportunity to discuss those methods that we can go about in terms of agenda. You know whenever you begin to do something, if you have a specific idea and you're going to try to ram that through, I'll tell you, it will fail. It will fail because you don't have all the states on the same pace. They all have competing interests but you need this Conference of States I think to sit down and discuss that, what those opportunities may be and I would certainly urge for the body to look at the Witek amendment, to defeat it, then to adopt my amendment to add in, for your comfort level, that this won't turn into a constitutional convention. Thank you, Mr. President, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Witek, Chambers and Abboud.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I intend to support the Witek amendment and I find myself surprised at this debate a little bit in terms of my feelings toward it. I feel very profoundly conservative when it comes to the process of dealing with the United States Constitution, and