

light is next.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of the amendment again and argue, along with Senator Beutler, that to not adopt it on this constitutional amendment is at our own peril, because, as Senator Beutler said, there is a terminology called facilitate petition drives. And that terminology has been used in the past to deny the Legislature from passing legislation that had people across county lines to register with the Secretary of State, and in some cases they were bonded before they could cross county lines so that we could be sure of their abilities in terms of that. And the court struck that down, if you remember, just a few years ago. So I would say that something like this would be in a gray area. I would hope that they would allow it to be done, but I think if you put it in statute it's very likely to be struck down by the court, not knowing how they would interpret it. So if this is something you want to do, and I think it is a good idea, if you don't do it in the constitution, I think you do so again at your own peril. And any other change that in any way could be seen as not facilitating petition drives ought to be included in the constitutional amendment versus...versus the statute. So, that's a very important point. And again the point of Senator Beutler's amendment is by having it come in earlier, we all get a chance in this Legislature to respond and act upon whatever issues are raised by petition drives and whatever issues are placed on the ballot. We can have alternative ideas, we can have better solutions to the problem, and I think it just will work a lot better than the current situation where in July we find out what's going to happen in November, and very short time, without a chance for the Legislature to respond and without the public to be fully informed on the issues in some cases. And so I think this is a good amendment, again I'd urge your support for it.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Dierks, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm...I think Senator Beutler and I are going to part our ways here. I'm not going to support this amendment. I think that if this were put on the constitutional amendment change and put on the ballot it would serve as a lightning rod to defeat the whole thing and the citizens of our state would not support it. And I just can't support it either. Thank you.