

we will... If it had been an amendment from somebody else I think it would have been a different matter.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amendment that we have talked about previously on the bill that deals with jury duty and jury service and as you know the committee changed the original figure in terms of who is responsible to serve once they have been notified and what I am attempting to do is to take it back to language I thought was correct in the very beginning. I am offering you an amendment which states that "Except that any person 65 years of age or older, who shall make the request to the court at the time of the juror qualification form is filed with the jury commissioner, shall be exempt from serving on grand and petit juries." It gets back to the issue again as I have told you before, that there are certain people when they reach age 65, even though they have been called to serve on jury duty, feel that because of medical and physical purposes and reasons that they should be able to exempt themselves or opt out for these reasons without them providing to the clerk or someone else the medical document that they have to show. As I said this request came to me from some elderly people that live in the Omaha area asking if this body would not consider and give serious consideration to allowing them that option. The last time we offered it it missed by a couple votes and I think it was due to the people not quite understanding. We are not trying to label people by an age. If we do that is not unusual for us. We do it in many laws. I believe it is imperative that these people who reach that age if they choose, there could be various reasons, and they will primarily be medical and physical, for them to opt out and allow them that privilege. This is indeed a privilege but it does not prevent them from serving. It is only if they feel this way. I want you to understand that. They are not exempted. Once they are called and they feel as though physically and mentally they can take the stress of jury duty, they can serve it. It is only if they feel they can't do it. This allows them the privilege of just signing a slip saying, I would defer from serving. That is the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would oppose this amendment. You know we are all citizens of this country and we all have our duties as citizens of this country and one of those duties is serving on the jury and I believe that before you exempt somebody from that duty you should be given some principle, some reason that governs