

There isn't any question in my mind, as Senator Abboud said, if this were to go on the ballot with 662 repeal, seat belt repeal, I 300, and what have you, it would get beat badly, probably two or three to one. This was an educational process. That is why I chose to do this today to generate, hopefully, some newspaper editorials, some letters to the editors, some contacts from your constituents. This is an issue that probably will have to be discussed several years because there is an educational part of it. I will just leave you with a couple other points to ponder. If you think 5 percent is not easy, 20 percent is required for a special election in cities. The state statute says 20 percent of signature petitions of the registered voters is needed to call a special election. A friend of mine told me that to petition out in the school district that he is in, to petition out at the school district, he needs 60 percent of the signatures of the registered voters. Sixty percent, and here we are talking five. So I am just asking you to think about the process and this is also a little unusual because what we are going to have, in fact, now is in essence no more than a straw vote.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR RUPP: I have already asked the Speaker not to put this matter on the agenda anymore this year. This was simply the beginning debate and what might, in fact, be a debate of several years. I stated in committee I had no intent of trying to pass this this year and get it on the ballot. I told Senator Abboud that, that I am, in fact, just using this as a vehicle to generate some discussion of a very important issue and when, in fact, as I believe it will, we will be faced with some serious problems of too many, too complicated, too emotional issues on the ballot, I can say I was one of the first ones to stand up back in 1986 and say, I told you so. So with that I would urge you to vote green, simply show that we do recognize that there is a problem. And again I have pledged to the Speaker that I don't want the issue on the agenda anymore this year. We have enough important matters on there, so we have started the process with the debate today. I would urge you advance it and that will be the last you hear of it from me for a long time to come. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you