

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would like Senator Schimek and others who were involved in the writing of LB 76, where we got I think close to 500 pages of election law rewriting, including a number of pages that addressed fraud in the absentee ballot situation, and I would like some reason then why we are going to circumvent all of those...all of those laws that we just passed on fraud issues, and pages, and pages, and pages, and we're going to circumvent the whole process that we just reset up, two years ago, with ample safeguards to prevent or at least attempt to prevent a high incident of fraud for absentee ballots and we're going to do away with all of that or circumvent all of that by adopting the Cudaback bill. I guess if it's good for the absentee ballots and we've got pages and pages of fraud statutes that you were involved in writing, Senator Withem was involved in writing, that if it was good for that bill in the absentee ballot situation, you say this is just an expansion of the absentee ballot situation, then I would think you'd be busy working on ten pages of, as you did on LB 76 in the absentee ballot situation, of statutes to prevent fraud in this mail-order situation. And yet I don't see any of those amendments forthcoming, or even an admission on any of those individual's part that there's even an opportunity for fraud. So I think what we have here is people who realize, who are involved in maybe some other areas that would benefit greatly from passing some of these bond issues, or throwing out some of the lid issues or whatever, an opportunity for organized groups of people to really have some...some opportunity to go and talk to those voters at their homes, go through the neighborhoods, have the kids...say it was a bond issue for a school which we're going to be adopting, or asked to vote for in Millard in a very short period of time, if we did this by mail, then we would have all those individuals going into the neighborhoods night after night talking to people. And I realize that that's part of the process. But we even admit, through all the statutes that we adopted two years ago, that we're going to give 200 feet of space from the ballot...from the voting ballot box when an individual walks into a ballot box (sic), but you're not going to give them any space in their home when they receive the ballot by mail. So if you're admitting that there's some potential there, in your own statutes that you just passed two years ago, for fraud, so you keep the people 200 feet away from