

anybody has mentioned it, if you do not get the petition signature numbers high enough you could create a referendum with a very few people and referendums are costly and they do cost in order to have that referendum. I don't believe 10% is out of line at all, in fact, it may even be low but I think I could certainly support it. I think it would be fair and if you can't get 10% of the voters in a small community especially as Senator Koch mentions, why you are not going to get very far with a referendum. So I support the Koch amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, I think that this has been discussed. I would like to call the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, all those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate is ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator Koch to close on his amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate those who supported the amendment. If we want to maintain some uniformity in statute on how we allow local initiatives to be carried out, then I believe that 10% is even low onto what we have under the present law for subdivisions of government because I will quote you one more time for some of you who may not know, Section 18-102 requires that a petition for a city initiative be signed by 15% of the registered voters. That is in law and it has been there. That is not a new phenomena. So 10% is not unreasonable at all. Let me give you an example. For instance, in the City of Omaha the school system with an imposed zero lid, I want you to realize that there are no exemptions under zero lid, none whatsoever. Example, fuel, those kinds of items, yet in 285 we did make some provisions which is the 7% lid but Social Security last year and OPS went up \$700,000. Now how do you get out of that? You pay it and when you pay that then you also probably are depriving some other people of certain opportunities. I am not against initiative petition. I believe in it but I believe we have a right here to make it fair and equitable for both sides of the issue, both the proponents and the opponents. If they are serious about something that they want to bring to a vote of the people, then I don't believe that 10% is unreasonable in terms of registered voters. The school district I live in has approximately twenty thousand people in that school district