

March 16, 1982

LB 688

to city council and that effort was overwhelmingly supported by the city residents and was voted in at that time and I think there is very much support for that proposal that now has been in effect for four years I believe. So in my estimation there is support for this concept that we ought to allow voters in the City of Lincoln to determine that for themselves and that is what this proposal would now do. I ask for your strong support for LB 688.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, may I ask Senator Wesely a question, please?

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Wesely, as you know I don't like to have the Legislature telling various people anywhere how they shall conduct their election. I like it so they can do it for themselves. But you say this requires a petition and this bill is necessary to allow them to have a petition drive? I thought they were allowed to have a petition drive any time they wanted one. Is this not correct?

SENATOR WESELY: Well the language that we found in the statutes that apply to the class of district that Lincoln has for their school board was unclear as to whether or not a petition was allowed so that the citizens felt that the only recourse they had was to come to the Legislature to change that system. This would say that it is clear that you can use the petition option to change our method of election to the school board.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay, then this would just clear up the situation so that they could have a petition drive to have any kind of election they wanted.

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR NICHOL: In other words, by district or at large or whatever they want?

SENATOR WESELY: Right. It leaves it up to the people.

SENATOR NICHOL: With that, I support your bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, how much time do we have on this bill? I'm prepared to use it all up. How much time?