

that we've had in Lancaster County with our district elections. It would be one thing I'd warn Senator Chambers about. Senator Chambers, one of the problems, and I don't know if you addressed this in your bill, but if you go to district elections, how they establish those districts is very important. In our council elections, when I first ran in '78 I helped lead a petition drive to go to the four district elections, and then we found a problem with gerrymandering of those districts, and we came back in with an amendment that I carried in this Legislature to have them recognize neighborhoods and school districts and try to have some continuity of interest in a district. In the Lancaster County Board, when they redistricted, they didn't have any of those provisions. When they decided to get into a change, from three to five members, they...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...cut slices out of the county with absolutely no recognition of any common interest whatsoever. It lost the whole intent of district elections, I mean one intent is to give people a chance to run and win that would have no other chance, the other thing is to bring together areas of a city or a county, bring together common interest so they have a voice to represent their interests. And we didn't see that happen when the county board divvied up this county. They had an individual they didn't want to have on the county board, so frankly they gerrymandered to a point where you go from one end of the county to the other end with basically a slice of representation. It's the worst plan I'd ever seen. I hope that in this bill, if it proceeds in the fashion that you have, that you have some provision to recognize, as we do in the Lincoln City Council, that the districts have some common interest, so that that is one of the points of a district election, that they bring together a common interest. Whether that be in Hastings and Adams County they have a common interest and they have a representative, or whatever area you might be talking about, legislative districts. Similarly we can't let this bill not allow for that districting to be done in the fashion it should be.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR WESELY: I would oppose the Labedz amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schimek.