

regionalism basis that would create a divisive feeling across...of citizens across this state which you do not heal in a week or two or a year or two. It would be there probably for a generation. If the change can be made, and I believe it is right public policy, if the change can be made within the current Constitution, then this is where it ought to occur because those kinds of concerns a lot of people have are almost impossible to address on a statewide basis without inevitably having that regionalism issue come up and I prefer that to the extent we can, that we keep those kinds of issues within this body where we're used to treating them and used to working with them and create that kind of an atmosphere if we do not have to on a statewide basis.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, followed by Senator Nelson.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would call the question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do, and the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Withem, would you like to close, please?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would, and I will not take long. I would first of all, if my remarks on the IPP motion were taken as personally offensive by Senator Wesely, I apologize for that. They were not meant as a personal attack, characterization of the opposition to this bill that comes out of certain segments. Senator Schimek did a nice job of clarifying it was not an official university position against this bill, but the position that comes out of certain segments of the university campus and those that are speaking for them, I do, I will repeat, I think those are parochial interests. I did not mean any personal assaults on anybody by the manner in which I tried to convey that particular message. We've spent a lot of time on this bill. This bill right now contains, I still think the most important part of this bill is the original core of 247 that calls for a study that will, hopefully, get this Legislature off dead center in the manner in which it addresses higher ed issues and on to actually addressing those. It also contains the