

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you. The Chair is pleased to advise that Senator Moore has some guests in the north balcony, 45 fourth graders from Centennial-Utica, with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're glad that you're here this afternoon visiting your Legislature. Discussion on the Labeledz amendment to the committee amendments. Senator Pirsch, followed by Senators Chambers and Withem. Senator Pirsch.

**SENATOR PIRSCH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I have not had the opportunity to speak on district elections in our Douglas County, but I am very much in support of not only the nomination by district, but also the election by district. And I do this for several reasons. This Legislature is a microcosm of people and representative of the entire State of Nebraska. We are accountable also to everyone in the State of Nebraska and I think we feel that, whether rural or urban, on many issues. What we are asking is for district elections of Douglas County that would give that...would give those citizens the same ability for our county. The northwest district which I represent, a small part of the county, has never had a representative on the board. We have three landfills. There have been other efforts to put an objectionable site, and also if we had nominations by district, these would be partisan of course, that the more populous districts in our county would override, could override the wishes of those people in that district and it would be elected, perhaps not necessarily what the members of the district would want. Also you haven't eliminated the expense that it takes to run in a county like Douglas County. It is still going to go to those who have a lot of money or a famous name and I don't think it will get the same kind of purview that the district nomination and general election could give. And for that reason, because I feel I must represent my people, I am supporting Senator Chambers in this nomination by district and election by district. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Senator Chambers, Senator Withem next.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I would like to talk about the technical aspects of the bill at this point, if I can hold your attention for a very few minutes. The language that is in existing law that deals with the election of Douglas County Board members has been found by the Douglas County Attorney and the Attorney General, I disagree