

thing, and that is to ask for a call of the house while I close on this motion because I don't normally do that, and I don't appreciate when others do it, but I don't want others to be out of the room while I have a chance to summarize this special situation. The Commonwealth issue, American Savings, State Securities have lived...we've all lived with it for years and it won't go away, it's true. Many of us have long-standing feelings and we know how we vote. Frankly, on its best day it has 24 votes, sometimes 25, but in this case we're caught in a procedural problem. When many of our colleagues have had more than one bite of the apple, like state aid to education, or whatever else that we have repeatedly debated issues, this is one that in this closing crunch time now allows itself a chance to be heard only in this format that requires a 30-vote rule suspension to be considered. Frankly, I know that if everyone votes their conscience on this issue, this motion will fail. I'm asking the body to suspend the distinction between the procedural question of whether we'll talk about this and, whether we believe in the idea itself, to give a measure of compassion and respect for people whose claims we are considering, to not throw them out of court without voting on them in the proper format which is a 25-vote up or down situation. That format requires not only attachment by a 25-vote...a motion here, but advancement of 272, and I'm sure that would require 25 votes, I'm sure it wouldn't be a voice vote, and I'm sure it would be on Final Reading as well. I have not the underlying issue itself to call upon for your understanding, because I think the body is too narrowly divided to count 30 supporters for the measure. I ask you, as a colleague who may some day be in this situation, when you have this kind of hurtful, painful situation that when times are flush and we're handing money out to everyone else should at least have their claims be heard by this body and entitled to the same standard of acceptance or rejection than otherwise. I urge the suspension of the rules and a vote by the house, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Senator Withem. Thank you. The question is the suspension of the rules. Thirty votes required. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 6 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to suspend the germaneness rule.