

is a good one and it is an open system. Now let's just prove that again by at least accepting, at this point, the concept that we, as a body, are going to have a role in making this decision. I just, for the life of me, cannot believe that we could say, yeah, we kind of like it but we're not going to vote for it now. It's exactly the time we should vote for it, we're creating a new court. We haven't created a new court for a while. You know, we don't create new courts all the time. What other...what other vehicle is there to say that we, as a body, are going to be involved in this process...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...and we're going to be involved in it at the committee stage, we're going to be involved in it on the legislative stage. I just...why anybody would vote no because, gee, we haven't had a hearing on it, we know what we're doing here. The process works all the time. The process works all the time with agency heads and commissions. We don't need a hearing to know what this amendment provides and whether we can trust ourselves to make decisions in this process. And I think we can and I urge you to vote for it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit. Additional discussion, Senator Baack, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes. Mr. Speaker, I will relinquish my time to Senator Chambers.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Baack. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, some of the arguments against this proposal have been off the mark and would confuse rather than clarify the issue. I haven't heard anybody on this floor stand and say that the Legislature should not confirm appointments that the Governor makes. These courts wield far more power than any appointee of the Governor. We have a situation where one branch of government is free to do practically anything that it wants to do anyway and the legislators seem to be unwilling to assume some responsibility at, at least, the doorway where the people who are going to serve on these courts will enter into that Chamber where they have such awesome power. If Senator Pirsch were here, I would let her know why I think we should offer the amendment relating to the appellate court on this