

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: And then we can go forward and deal with any of the specific problems that you may have. But I firmly embrace the concept. I think it's a concept well worth pursuing, one that I think this Legislature will want to adopt when they think about it further and simply at this time, early on, you have the opportunity to likewise embrace and support it and work further on it as time goes by on the other issue that we have before the Judiciary Committee. So, again, I think that the arguments raised have answers to them. I think the problems with this are minimal. I think that the benefits are great and I would ask your support for this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The gentleman from Plattsmouth, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes. Mr. Speaker and members, I will be brief on this but I'm going to oppose this motion at this stage. Myself, I am not totally opposed to this. I do want to understand it more clearly. It just really came in the last couple of days, so for many of the reasons that Senator Kristensen espoused is ones that I would agree with. In addition to that, there is some distinctions that I think we ought to draw and I won't carry them that far but our federal...at our federal level they are appointed for a lifetime. In Nebraska, as I understand it, it is a six-year term subject to the electorate. So we do have some recall provisions in the Nebraska law that are not available at the federal level. In closing, I would say that if there is ever a case of politicizing, it is true at the national level, especially within the last two years; probably not a more politicized appointment in the history of the United States court system, at least to my limited knowledge, than what there was there. I guess I want to understand the ramifications of this much more before I would be willing to put this into law on the stage...at this stage of the game and would rather have some hearings and some more Nebraskan input before I would vote favorably on this.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, please. Senator Dierks moves the previous question. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate now close? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote if you would care to vote. Have you all voted? Please record.