

comes to a vote of the people it will go down to that basic, common denominator. And the judicial branch of the government can go and try to argue all the philosophic points it wants to, but it will be lost, it will be lost on the public because it's easy to understand I don't want my rights taken to be able to go to the Supreme Court, and that's what you want to do. And then what will happen is that you will lose all, it will all go down the tubes. And my concern is that we might be able to cut down a few trees in the forest, and the whole forest will prosper and grow. And my understanding is if we keep the felonies, if we keep that within the Constitution as right to go to the Supreme Court, that we would still eliminate, if you wish, where the court could say we're not going to hear cases, at least 70 percent of those cases now go on to the court, and again that's assuming the court would not want to hear those cases. They may very well choose to hear those cases. And I'm very concerned that the body may put before the public that which the public, because of an emotional, easy to understand issue, will vote down. And, if that's the case, we've done a terrible disservice because then we will have gained nothing of what we're trying to do. And I put to those people that are making decisions on how far to go on what issues, what do you want? Do you want everything and risk losing everything, or are you willing to say, no, let's go ahead and keep that in the Constitution, let's get the majority of what we want, let's get the system in place and we'll attack the other issues later at another time. And I hope they think very carefully about their decisions on this matter, because I'm very fearful...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that they are going to lose it all, and that would be unfortunate. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion, Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to thank Senator Chambers for keeping this issue on the burner. And I would like to thank Senator Bernard-Stevens for just really clarifying for me, and I hope for some others on this floor, what the real issue is here. I think he's right. I think that if we do not present to the people a clear plan of what this means and have it in the Constitution saying that these kinds of cases will be appealed to the Supreme Court,