

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I also rise in support of Senator Chambers' amendment. I co-sponsored, along with Senator Moore, the provision that deals with the Student Regent vote, have sponsored in the past when it used to go to the Constitutional Revision Committee, as well as the Education Committee. I think that the students have all of the ability in the world to make decisions as any elected Regent and, since they are elected by their own bodies, their own student bodies, they have the basis for an election as well. They represent a constituency. Argument is made that they, in effect, have double representation. I don't believe that to be the case. Any time when we put together a board, a commission, or what have you, within the state, we bend over backward to make sure that particular constituencies are represented. I know this to be very true in the area of health care when we put together boards or commissions that deal with specific legislation. I think of the 407 review process that was put in place about four years ago. A number of different medical areas had to be represented because of the impact it was going to have on them. In this one case, the students represent the clients, if you will, that we established the University for in the first place. It only makes sense that they have voting representation on the Board of Governors so that they can have a true voice in what takes place, what impacts them but also what impacts students into the future. It, I think, is only just and fair and I think it's one of the better parts of LR 239. It is clearly something that I think will help the measure in terms of the ballot. Senator Schellpeper spoke to Senator Schimek's amendment that dealt with the election provision and he said that it clearly was one thing that would probably help the proposal if and when it got to the ballot. I think this will as well. To separate out the students from an overall restructuring just continues the, to me, the segregation that they have been treated with over the years. It does not make any sense to basically make them second class citizens when it is them that we rely on to fund, to a great extent, the university system with their tuition dollars. I would urge your support of Senator Chambers' amendment and give the balance of my time to Senator Chambers.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, about two minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I'm very appreciative of the fact that there are persons such as