

that comes before us. So merely using the term nonpartisan means nothing. Expressing hope that things will be a certain way will not assure that they will be that way. We are writing a constitutional amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Senator Warner, additional discussion, followed by Senators Bernard-Stevens and Chambers.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I'd rise to oppose this particular amendment that has been discussed back and forth. The reason, as Senator Withem I think has indicated, that the initial board was suggested to put that in was solely one that because those initial boards would all be appointed by one Governor this issue might come up and be a concern to someone. Personally, I would say that if you were going to change anything, why you ought to take the aspect of the partisan politics out of the initial board, and just allow the Governor the flexibility to appoint. Certainly, there is nothing in the Constitution that covers the Board of Trustees. They have been in existence for 70 years. I do not recall any abuse the Governors have made of that. There may have been some at some time but at least I do not recall. Secondly, under the provisions of an ongoing basis, we will have the nominating commission which will be suggesting names to people, the whole concept is that a lot of people who would be very well qualified to serve on this kind of board may have an opportunity. They can apply to those nominating commission with the implementing language. There is a public hearing on those names in which people putting the nominee has an opportunity to express their position. The Legislature will be approving those nominees by the Governor before they can take office. So there are many checks and balances in the system. The odds of one Governor having an impact over a two-year term...a two-term Governor, there would be some possibility for a short period of time, I guess, if there were two successive Governors that were highly partisan in their nature but over the long haul that, nevertheless, would not really be a factor. And, finally, there is no question but what politics, I am not talking partisan now, but politics are always a part of education. There is no way in and out of that. But, by the same token, I think we ought not to deliberately make it partisan, and it seems to me that is what this is attempting to do. We can argue we are not making it partisan by having it half and half. The impact of that usually is just the reverse. I would hope that we will have people selected and appointed and approved by the Legislature