

30 votes on it, it goes to the voters. Yes, the voters would ultimately have to make the decision to vote for this in the fall and I guess you have that check and balance, but before it goes to them, there would be no opportunity for the Governor to review the situation. And so that is just us in the next few minutes and hours between an issue being on or not being on the ballot, and I simply object. I think the issue is a valid one. I think the concerns that are being addressed with the amendments are probably valid. I know that there is an effort to bring consensus here. I just simply feel that it is inappropriate to amend the Constitution in such a fashion. I would take a more deliberate move, and it seems to me if this is good policy and if we are moving toward a consensus, something that we can all live with, then it will wait for next year and it will be good policy next year as it is today. And so, in my estimation, we are making a mistake suspending the rules and moving forward in this fashion. I just feel that fundamentally whatever the amendments, I haven't looked at them, whatever we might even be talking about, it just doesn't seem right to me.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, then Senator Withem, then Senator Hefner. Senator Warner, first, okay, for closing. Senator Withem, next.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, I waived off initially because this is largely a procedural motion, but Senator Wesely has chosen to frame the debate around this particular issue. Senator Wesely, you know and I know and, hopefully, everybody else in here knows we are not amending the Constitution. We cannot amend the Constitution. The people of the state amend the Constitution. What we do is we propose...we propose amendments to them that they can support or object to. The issue of coordinating higher education is one that has been around, oh, gosh, I would have no idea how long. Senator Warner referred to some commission recommending changes in higher ed some 30 or 40 years ago and the Legislature responded by abolishing the commission, not by coordinating higher education. We have a rare opportunity as a Legislature today because somewhat by happenstance, certainly not by planning, but somewhat by happenstance we are at a point where we have a manner of providing coordination of higher education that actually has widespread support among the institutions. My gosh, I've chaired the Education Committee long enough, and I've been in this Legislature long enough to know that never happens, not rarely, that never happens. And we are at the point where