

and Senator Nelson touched upon it, is that I enjoy having people participating in the process. I enjoy people taking it upon themselves saying I believe, as a citizen, that I have a right to make some change and I want to get involved and force government, or create something that I don't feel the government has been responsive for. And that is a fascinating and unique system, particularly within the Nebraska frame of government. But the one thing that concerns me is I feel that once petitioners are out there, they need to be informed on what it is they are petitioning. They need to know, not only the pros on what they are trying to do, but to understand the arguments on the other side, because the law, basically, says that they need to be able to respond adequately to any questions asked of them. And I can tell you now during the petition processes that took place in Nebraska, as I queried different petitioners and what have you on various issues, that they were not informed on the issues. They did not understand what they were doing. Many of them just understood that they wanted to lower taxes in general. Many of them understood that it is just something that needed to be done. Many of them thought that it simply is a way to help earn some money for my college coming up, if they were on the paid side. So I would suggest this to Senator Withem, and I would like to ask your thoughts on it, if you would consider at some point thinking that before you can become a petitioner, whether it is paid or unpaid, that there be some type of course or seminar or daylong program that they would have to go to so, at least, they would have the basics of the information available on that petition process. And you can use the balance of my time at this point.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Yeah, I think that would be a good idea. Exactly how you would do it, it was an idea that had not occurred to me, and I would have to spend some time working out what types of training would go into this, but I would agree with you. Again, from some of the people who I visited with that were carrying petitions, it is kind of interesting that the Jaksha people that were out there, volunteers, you asked them what does this do, they had a pretty good understanding of what it did because they were out there because they were concerned. Now the nuances, they may have had some problems with but, you know, even Mr. Jaksha and some other people had misunderstandings about what it actually meant. But the people carrying the lottery petition, the people carrying the 1059 petition, you'd engage them in a discussion, there really wasn't that level of understanding, and I think both you