

Johnson, and Senator Coordsen. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam Chair, members of the Legislature, I do support Senator Coordsen's amendment. Not only was Senator Johnson put in that position of having to forego having his name on the ballot for the Legislature, I had to do the same thing in the immediately preceding Legislature. I wanted to run for U.S. Senator and the Legislature at the same time, and I had to make a choice. So I let my name stay on the ballot for U.S. Senator. You can see the fact that I'm here that I didn't fare very well as far as winning the election. But then I ran for my legislative seat by way of write-in. Here's where we are now, the members of the Legislature and those constitutional officers cannot hold two offices. So we're not talking about holding two offices. The Constitution won't let us hold two offices. We're talking only about filing for more than one. Every other office being sought in the state will be populated by people who can file for any offices they choose. So, if a person, say, were a member of the Congress and wanted to file for the Legislature, he or she could do that. But that member whose seat is being challenged by the congressional member could not file for his or her seat, and also that seat in Congress. So we place ourselves at a disadvantage. The philosophy of the state, obviously, is not one of saying that you can hold only one office. The philosophy is not that you can only file for one office. So, since there is no principle being violated here, I say we should place ourselves on the same footing as every other politician or office seeker. If somebody is running for more than one office, the comment was made yesterday that it will be sorted out at the polls by the people voting for the person whom they choose. In the unlikely event that a member of the Legislature, who is an incumbent, would win that office plus another one, the Constitution requires him or her to make a choice between those two offices. He or she could not hold two. However, at these other levels, as pointed out by Senator Wesely, a person could hold more than one office because there is no constitutional prohibition against them. So, to sum up, all that this amendment deals with is the ability to file for more than one office, if you're a sitting member of the Legislature, or one of the constitutional officers. I support the amendment. And it will give consistency and place us on an equal footing with those who already have been given that right.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Withem.