

May with the primary, a small state, that late, we probably are going to be lucky to see hardly anything of any of the candidates from either side. It simply is a fact of life that as a small state we have got to be innovative and different to try and gain attention on a national level. We are not a big state with a big electoral vote. We are not, by and large, a swing state. We have consistently voted Republican for presidential candidates, and so if we want attention from presidential candidates, whether they be Republican or Democrat, you have got to try something different, and this is a concept worth trying. By going to this, there is the opportunity for at least some competitiveness in some of the elections. If the pattern holds as in the past, you can expect a Republican candidate, whoever they are, to meet a Democratic candidate, whoever they are, in Nebraska and not only statewide but in each of the legislative...or in each of the congressional districts. That seems to be the pattern. But at some point in the future, should there be some change in that and if there should be a closer election, it could be that a candidate may have some more competitiveness, say in the first or second district, and less so in the third district, or more competitive in the third district, and less so in the first or second district. There is a tremendous difference in registration in our congressional districts, and so by throwing this change of pace in, this curve ball in the process, so to speak, you might actually catch somebody by surprise and get some attention paid to this state in presidential politics. I think that is good. I think having some attention paid in Nebraska, as a president is elected in this country, is a good thing. Whoever wins the ultimate contest, having them here, having them pay attention to us, having them interested in our state, can only bear fruit, hopefully, in the future that is of benefit to Nebraskans. So for that reason, I simply, having been involved in some campaigns and seeing very little attention paid to Nebraska, it seems to me that we ought to do more to try and get some attention back focused in on our state and this legislation can help us do that. So I would very much ask your support for advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I will now recognize the senators in the following order, Senator Schrock, Wehrbein, and Crosby. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam President, other members of the body, I rise to oppose this bill. It is not one I'm going to lose a lot