

vote should be heard. And since we have decided years ago to break it down to each district, each district has one vote and in regards to congressional districts it seems to make sense to me that the majority of the people in that district's voice should be heard. And right now it is not. And I agree with Senator Withem, if the...if people would take the time, we always look at Nebraska as being a two-party state but, in actuality, if you look at particular elections within districts on presidential, we have to begin differentiating between two parties and two-parties competitive, and there are many races consistently and the presidential race would be one, where I think it could be argued that, yes, in Nebraska there are two parties but it has never been necessarily for a long time two-party competitive at the presidential election area. You know, so I think the partisan thing we need to be kind of careful if we are really talking about two parties or are we talking about two-party competitive where either side could win. You know, it's been argued, for example, the third district has been very, very difficult for one party to win at the congressional level. On the other hand, at other levels it's very, very competitive. So I think we have to be careful of what we're talking about. In closing on at least a part of the bill, I think that Nebraskans deserve at least to feel that their voice in their district, regardless of how the majority went, is in some minuscule way being heard, because if we don't do that, the real practical matter is it probably won't be heard and, as Senator Withem said, the vote could actually change and vote...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...differently anyway. And I think we owe it to people that they know that their little vote in their small district in the middle of a large country does have some impact and right now, quite honestly, in many cases it doesn't. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Seeing no one else wishing to debate this bill, do you have a closing, Senator Schimek?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: No, Madam President, I would just urge advancement. And I am guessing that we're going to have to have a call of the house but I will wait and see.