

vote but found it uncomfortable, or not uncomfortable, but not particularly easy to...inconvenience is the word I'm looking for, inconvenient to go to register, it gives them an opportunity to do that. There were some concerns that it would give a partisan advantage having this ease in registration. The feeling was always that those people that are not registered to vote will tend to be Democrats and we'll get more Democrats registered. I don't think the facts have borne that out. I think, as a matter of fact, one of my colleagues in a neighboring district to the north, won't get any more specific than that, and I think in his campaigns for Legislature has used mail-in registration quite effectively, getting people to register to vote. And it works both ways. I don't think there is any advantage to one party over another party. The second thing, I think, is that what Senator Schimek is proposing here is really a part of a movement that has taken place since this has passed. A telephone book, I don't know...didn't listen as closely to her comments as I should have, maybe she mentioned this, but U.S. West is including a voter registration form in its phone book. There is a legislation going through Congress that will require access to voter registrations when people register their automobiles and get their driver's licenses and interact with government in other capacities. Other states are doing this. This is just another means by which it makes it easier for a person to be able to participate in the process. And if we are going to be a nation where individuals are encouraged to participate, keep in mind the United States, of all democratic nations, has one of the lowest participations in the election process of any democratic nation. There are some nations where you are automatically registered to vote and have to unregister yourself. There are even some places where it's mandatory that people do go to vote and I wouldn't propose any of those sort of extreme measures. But this is just one that makes it easier for a person to get a hold of a voter registration form and I think it's a good idea and I would urge you to support Senator Schimek's bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Crosby, followed by Senator Coordsen and Morrissey. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President, and members, Senator Schimek, I just had a couple of questions. I went on this bill because, on the face of it, it does sound like a good idea but I have a few concerns, not about the intent of the bill but the percentages that you gave, Senator Schimek, would you