

least the court can have some input. It is amazing, most of us will have some input into redistricting in our legislative districts. What is wrong, what is wrong with allowing the court to have some input into the judicial districts? I urge, colleagues, you reject this amendment, and pass 181 as it is amended now with no further amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chizek. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I, also, rise to oppose Senator Beutler's amendment. Primarily, I am concerned about the fact that even though with the statistics and the information that Senator Beutler has presented to you, it may appear that he has a plausible proposal, but we do not know that that is a plausible proposal. I submit to you that the point system that is relied on in Senator Beutler's statistics is itself flawed, needs to be studied, and that will be done over the summer, as Senator Chizek noted. I think that the point system is flawed in a couple of respects. It does not accurately take into account judicial travel time. It does not accurately account for the complexity of cases the judges are handling. For example, they get a certain number of points for having a case opened, but it does not tell us anything about the complexity of the cases that are opened, how many motions are filed, how many hearings are held, what trial results, how long the trial is, et cetera. We cannot tell from the numbers that Senator Beutler has presented to you how hard those judges are working in the 21st and the 5th Districts. We just cannot tell. And until we do some additional work over the summer, I think it is inappropriate for us to take this step because we do not, literally do not know what the effect would be on the delivery of judicial services in that district. I also want to remind my colleagues that we are going to be increasing judicial work loads during this session. I see one of the bills that is on the agenda will call for the review of child support orders every three years. I think we need to be looking down the road a little bit at how we are going to be impacting the judicial system. We may as well have it ready to go and in place, because all we are doing...all I can see us doing, at any rate, is increasing the judicial work load, and here if we are going to take a judge out of two districts where the impact is uncertain. I am not willing to take that step without some additional study.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING