

remainder of my time to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Ashford. I respect that proviso. I guess I want to also talk a little bit about what Senator Moore implied, that sometimes when we get on these issues, we get debating, we forget the focus of what the ramifications are, we get thinking about the mood, and what makes sense at the time, and we forget, sometimes, to put that in the whole perspective. Senator Moore said it accurately. People who might...who will be supporting or thinking about supporting this amendment are playing with fire. In fact it's a very dangerous fire because the heat index is very high, and there's a strong wind blowing. This fire is going to be devastating, devastating to families out there. And those people that vote for this type of amendment, you can go back and argue all the philosophy you want to, but the final analysis is, as Senator Hall stated, all practicality aside, it is simply going to be...things will be on the tax rolls. I want you to go look at those families on the marginal, they'll be out of business. And I want you to explain to them, personally, this great philosophy you had of 25 votes. And I want you to look at those businesses out in my part of the state and in the eastern part of the state that may be marginal go under because of this, and explain your philosophy, and look at their children and explain your philosophy of 25 to 30, and because of this issue you made it so that there would not be a chance for a constitutional amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Not only are you playing with fire, I want you to visualize the people that you will be affecting because there will be no chance for a constitutional amendment. No one has mentioned the fact that how do you sell to the public getting rid of a uniformity clause, which they perceive as a protection, and it is, the courts have shown it is, and yet you have no protection for them with the 25 votes. Try to explain to the public that you'll be able to have tax policy for them and all the big interests and lobby groups need are 25 votes to get what they are able to get with 30 at times. Explain to them how they're going to be protected more when they vote for that CA. But since, if you vote for this, there won't be a CA, you visualize in your minds those children, those families, the people that you supposedly are trying to protect,...