

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in support of the Kristensen amendment and I guess, first of all, I think this should clarify for everybody that this is not a constitutional convention that we're talking about. Secondly, I think it says that we don't need the Chambers-Witek amendment and the reason being, if this is not a constitutional convention, then any proposal for any change in the Constitution would have to go through one of two processes. It would either have to be go back to the legislatures and let two-thirds of the house or either house or in this case, two-thirds of our Legislature would have to vote to call for a constitutional convention or the...both houses of Congress would have to propose a constitutional amendment and then it would have to go through one further step. It would have to be ratified by three-fourths of the legislatures or by three-fourths of any convention that has been called. So if we are clarifying in this amendment for those who are worried about this whole proposal, if we're clarifying and saying this isn't a constitutional convention, then I don't see why everybody is worried, I don't see why we need the next amendment. Anybody could come to the Legislature and propose a change in the Constitution. It wouldn't have to be an action plan. Our delegates to this could come back on an individual basis and do that. Somebody from the public could do that. I mean I don't see the problem, I don't see the problem in the first place but in the second place, if we adopt the Kristensen amendment, there is no problem because any proposal that you're going to want to get into the Constitution is going to have to go through the ordinary process. So with that I would just encourage you to vote for the Kristensen amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, first of all, I think the Kristensen amendment is, I rise in opposition to it. I think it's too narrow to say that Nebraska won't be calling for a federal constitutional convention. As I said before, they only need two-thirds of the states to do so and they're going to be asking for three-quarters. And to say that this is going to allay the fears of everyone who thinks that we're going to be calling for a constitutional convention, I will say again my fear is not so much, and it isn't even fear, I mean it's based on substantial fact. My feeling is that what will happen to this Conference of States by their own admission,