

have exactly what the citizens of our state have told us they want. So let's not fool around with this amendment to the committee amendments, let's just not support the committee amendments and let's get it back to where we can treat our citizens the way that they've told us they want to be treated, the way we have treated them historically, the way the Secretary of State said they were supposed to be treated. I don't think that it was the intent of the Legislature to increase signature requirements as was done in 1988. It certainly wasn't the intent of the voters. I guess I wonder how people are going to view this Legislature if we don't correct the efforts, don't correct the changes that were made. It looks to me like we have everything to gain by going back where we were and several things to lose if we don't. I passed around a listing, you just should have gotten it a few minutes ago, about the number of petitions filed and that actually became law since 1960 and I don't remember what some of those were, but there's a long stretch in there where none of those done according to the way the Secretary of State asked them to do it were passed. Just because we give them all these figures to get signatures for doesn't mean that the state's citizens are going to pass it. It just gives them an opportunity to present it to them. If you go down toward the bottom of the sheet you can remember some of those like in 1986, those two that were actually passed were the school consolidation bill and the seat belts. You go on down to 1992, that was term limits that the courts threw out based on a decision of the Supreme Court. In 1994 was another one on term limits. So it hasn't been all that onerous you see. We haven't been attacked especially by our citizens, but we have given them the right to do the things that they felt very strongly about, school consolidation and seat belts. We haven't...I don't think this system has been abused in any way, shape, or form. What we tried to do with my LR 6CA is to bring it back to what the citizens had with this thing that I've handed out to you. So I would urge you not to support these committee amendments and put us right back where we were when the citizens had this thing the way we've had it for years. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute. Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Vrtiska, Witek, Wesely, Hall and Lynch.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Dierks, I think that you and I agree on a number of things regarding this issue. First of all, I agree that it