

this Conference of States where we can at least begin to try to have some dialogue. Yes, you can write letters, you can make phone calls, you can do all those things, but they come from individuals. If the states, together, can have a dialogue with the federal government, quite frankly, I think it may tend to help those relations and I tend to think that we will all be better off for it. I oppose this amendment for a very simple reason is that I think one of the points of discussion and debate could well be possible constitutional amendments. Next year when we meet as a Legislature, there may be, there may be an action plan that we are going to look at. It may have some constitutional amendments. We ought to talk about those at that time. We shouldn't talk about, oh, our group, this isn't before us, we can't discuss this constitutional amendment because in our resolution we said we weren't going to do that. So we are taking that discussion off the table. Next year, if there is an action plan, and if that action plan involves some possible constitutional amendments, I think this Legislature ought to have the ability and should debate those fully. I am afraid that this amendment may take that and impinge upon the ability of the Legislature to consider those constitutional amendments. I don't want our group to be put in a box where we can't do amendments. I also don't want where we, if there is an action plan that comes back, I don't want this Legislature to be able to use the argument saying, well, we shouldn't have been discussing that anyway last summer, so we are not going to discuss it now. The action plan could have some very, very good things that we have to say to Congress in it. It might have some very bad things in it. The issue is we are going to get to decide what that message from this state is going to be. And if we don't like what the action plan has in it, what do you suppose we are going to do? We will probably send our own report in, but we have that option to do so. I think there are other amendments that we certainly want to discuss. But at this point in time, for the members, I would oppose the Chambers amendment. I think it impinges upon our ability later and probably at the conference. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am aware that this is the amendment that the Governor and Senator Kristensen hate the most because I think it really gets to the heart of the matter, and, Senator Wehrbein, this isn't just a meeting. If this was just a meeting, why do they have to