

words, we encourage the volunteer petitioner who has to have strongly held beliefs to get out there and do the kind of work that it takes to do a petition drive in the State of Nebraska, unlike the paid petition circulator who often just does it for the money and really doesn't care about what the petition says at all. This approach encourages that the petition circulator will really care about the petition that they're circulating and will really have strongly held beliefs and he believes that that is really a good state interest. Secondly, he goes on to say that there are First Amendment rights here that the Attorney General particularly talked about but he says that the central feature of 22CA is that it does not restrict, it does not restrict or forbid any expressive conduct at all. It leaves supporters of ballot measures free to hire paid circulators or to use volunteers as they wish. The proposal does again, of course, encourage the use of volunteers. And he goes on to say it's entirely clear that the First Amendment allows the government broad power to encourage certain kinds of expressive activity and not others. He says that there is a basic difference between direct state interference with a protected activity and state encouragement of an alternative activity consonant with legislative policy. Okay, would you like some of my time? Okay. With that, I guess, Madam President. I guess my remarks are finished. I think Senator Dierks has just assured me that he wants to speak to this and that I don't need to prolong the vote. So, thank you very much.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. We're on the motion to advance at this point, right?

SENATOR CROSBY: You're on the motion to advance.

SENATOR WESELY: Madam President, members, I rise in opposition to the motion to advance LR 6 and I haven't had a chance to listen to all of the debate this morning, but I just want to go over some of the concerns that I've had about the petition process in the past and some of the things that have developed over a period of time and give you a little perspective on it. I think that the bill is in the best form that it can be in at this point to address the concerns that many of us have had with paid petition circulators, but at one point my thought about petition drives was that it was a chance for the grass roots people to express themselves and to have an outlet to make