

to gain a lot of interest and support, but at the same time it's afterwards, maybe after it's adopted that we see some of the consequences and we think maybe a little more reflectively about the issue. And that's my major concern and that's why I think higher levels of signatures makes sense and why I think the ruling by the Supreme Court was one in which I feel comfort level with. And we have other discussions that we can have about how we now allow paid petition circulators, making it easier to get signatures. We have transportation easier to get signatures. There's lots of things out there that have made it easier to gather signatures than long ago when the levels were first established that have now since been changed. So a higher level in my view isn't making it an impossible task in the perspective of time that the higher level based on the fact that it's easier now to move around and get these signatures would indicate to me that we are actually leaving the level in which we have to leap over in order to get a petition on the ballot is really more or less stable. It's a higher level in terms of number of signatures, but in terms of ease of getting them because of modern conveniences, it seems to me that we're not actually being unfair and that's what the court ruled.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: So again, my point is that...

SENATOR CROSBY: Would the senators please keep your conversations down so the speaker may be heard. You have one minute, Don.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Again, my point is that there's a fundamental question about petition drives that we haven't really addressed. We've talked about what number of signatures to allow and we've talked about whether or not paid circulators ought to have a higher level and all that but there's maybe a more fundamental issue about whether petition drives in fact have been serving the public interest as they evolved over time and that question is one that we I think haven't addressed in the way that we ought to and my answer to that is that there have been changes over time in the perspectives on this that would lead me to conclude that petition drives have been problematic and have not taken the broad view in addressing some issues, have left the consequences of their enactment to elected bodies and have, I think, have to be reviewed in the context of how they are now being utilized.