

could have developed from petitions when they were filed, and that an alternative would have been a desirable approach. But I would not be in support of this amendment as it now stands.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I didn't hear all of Senator Warner's comments, but it seems to me that Senator Beutler has raised an important issue, and that is a concern about the broader view on these petition drives and what they are proposing and how we can interject into it the different perspectives that need to go into a process that determines policy. I mean the thing about the Legislature is there are only 49 of us, that's correct. But we represent different parts of the state, each of us from a different district. And just by happenstance, of course, we have different perspectives in terms of our work that we do, the type of experiences that we've had in our lives, the sort of philosophies that we have, the values that we have. And together we come together with those different viewpoints and decide what we think we want to propose in terms of changes in policy. Well, petition drive circulators tend to perhaps come from different parts of the state, but they come from one perspective. They've decided that this is the way things out to be, let's sit down and draft something and let's put a proposal forward. They don't bring in opposite side, they don't bring in everybody for public hearings. They don't have an open process to drafting their petition proposals, and that is the flaw in the petition process. They don't have the sort of openness that we have and the inclusion that we have. They are excluding, in terms of the drafting of the proposals. So what Senator Beutler is saying is, well, let's change that, let's allow the Executive Board, let's allow the Legislature to bring in people and to consider the alternatives and to think about the consequences of proposals, and perhaps there are better alternatives than are being proposed by the petition circulators. I think that's a very important concept and one that I would feel much more at ease with the petition process that we had in place. Because not only do you have the difficulty of drafting the petition and not including people in that process, but because they can pick out only certain parts of the issue and they can put that on the ballot, they don't have to deal with consequences. They don't have to deal with the big picture. They deal with one piece of the puzzle and they pick out the prettiest piece of the puzzle, the most popular piece of the puzzle, and that's what they put