

please check in. Lindsay, Avery, Senator Maurstad, Senator Schellpefer, Senator Cudaback, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Hillman, will you check in, please.

CLERK: Senator Avery voting yes.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: We are accepting call-in votes. The question before you is, shall debate cease?

CLERK: Senator Wehrbein voting yes.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 4 nays on the motion to cease debate, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Debate ceases. I recognize Senator Beutler to close on his amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I'm sorry the timing is not better on this particular idea because I think it's an idea whose time will necessarily come because we're headed down a very dangerous path, it seems to me, now that we have money paid circulators for initiative petitions. And I'm sorry our Constitution is going to be subject to some of the things that it probably will be subject to. In any event, I was clear and honest with you in the sense that I indicated, in my opening remarks, that this took a constitutional amendment in order to effectuate the matter. I was hoping that perhaps either the sentiment would be so overwhelming, or certain senators, such as Senator Dierks, might have an interest in it and the path for finding or dealing with the constitutional amendment would be there for us. But clearly that path is not there. Senator Dierks does not like this particular idea, and so it cannot be a part of that bill. And the bill that I had was killed in government, so it cannot be a part of that bill, I have no other vehicle. And so my only choice today is to withdraw the amendment. But I think, having listened to the debate, that far and away the only major argument against it was the idea of delay and the idea that perhaps this delay would be perceived by some or a majority of the public as being antidemocratic, or anti the people, which I don't think is true but nonetheless that it could be perceived that way. I think there's another way to skin this cat, and I'm going to propose it to you on Select File, that doesn't require