

overturning a federal law, they think of it as overturning a federal law that's either very expensive to the states or very difficult for the states to deal with. I think they're looking at, as Governor Leavitt said, onerous legislation. But I think it also opens the possibility of decentralizing some of the decisions that have been made, and rightly so, giving us uniform laws across the states, and kind of instead of having the opportunity to have one decision-making body, as in the United States Congress, deciding on an issue, breaking it back down to the 50 states to decide, and that could go both ways. It could go to laws you agree with and it could go to laws that you disagree with. And it would just take a majority in two-thirds of the legislatures to decide to strike it out of federal law. So I offer this amendment to give us time here on the floor, if we are sending a delegation, to give that delegation that eventually goes some idea of where we stand on this issue of this constitutional amendment. And I hope that you'll take the time to discuss some of these ideas here on the floor of the Legislature, because I think if you vote for this Conference of States you will only have one more vote on this constitutional amendment, and that will be when they bring it back for ratification to the legislatures. To ratify a constitutional amendment, it doesn't go to a vote of the people, it just goes to the legislatures. And I'm giving you an opportunity here to discuss some of your feelings on the very high likelihood that this type of a constitutional amendment will be discussed at The Conference of States and more than likely will be adopted since, as Senator Beutler has said, they...some people, when they put these things together, kind of direct the discussion one way or another. And I believe, since both of the Governors who are spearheading this have both discussed this as a high likelihood in their assessment of a focus area, that this will be one of the areas that will be focused on. And I hope that we can get some discussion on the record here in the State of Nebraska on how people in the Legislature feel about this. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. On the Witek amendment, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I support Senator Witek's amendment, but I want to make some preliminary statements in the same way that Senator Kristensen did during his opening to bring us back to where we left off. First of all, this is a very serious undertaking when there is not only to be a formal gathering of the states, but a creation