

about a proposal by Senator Witek. She is exactly right on this proposal, and I think it is appropriate to bring up, and I will tell you why. And maybe this came up earlier, but when I and the others were back at the briefings we went to in Washington, Governor Leavitt was asked, well, what do you think will come out of this conference, and the one and only thing he brought up was this exact point, that we...this is an idea that maybe we can all feel good about, this is a wonderful thing that we could allow the states to overturn an act of the Congress. Of course, we always talk about it, and we joke about it, don't we? And there are bills that get passed that are pretty strange and we wonder where they came from, and we'd like to do something about them. But if you'd think about it just a little bit more, it becomes I think an idea that simply ought not to be on the table at all, and if that is the one thing they want to get out of this, boy, I think it is kind of a sad situation. Because if you think about it, if we end up in a situation where any act of Congress becomes potentially something we can overturn, can you think about the time we are going to spend on that. Instead of spending time on the things that we want to work on, on the proposals we have to worry about, we will be having pressure groups that once focused on Washington back with us, pressuring us on this or that pet project or pet problem that they've got, wanting the states to overturn whatever the Congress came up with, and we will be spending instead of our time working on the state's issues, spending all of our time on national laws that somebody doesn't like and wanting us to overturn. And if this is the best idea that is going to be generated, then we are in a world of hurt on this proposal. I think that The Conference of the States has great potential, but I worry a great deal about the consequences of what will be proposed and how they sound great at first and in the end become a terrible change in policy that I think has long-term negative repercussions for the country. So I do support the Witek amendment. It is exactly on point and I would hope there would be support for it as well.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Any further discussion on the Witek amendment? Seeing none, Senator Witek, would you like to close?

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, now we really have people (laughing) wondering. We've got Wesely, Witek, and Chambers, or Chambers, Wesely, and Witek, however you want to say it, agreeing on something. But I think maybe it sunk into Senator Wesely and others, you know since we have