

you that for any constitutional changes to be made, they would still have to go through the formal ratification process contained in Article V of the U.S. Constitution, after they had become part of the petition on the states, but recognizing that the U.S. Constitution is a critically important document, and that we ought not to idly be talking about concept like nullifying acts of Congress or proposing new ways in which constitutional amendments will be adapted lightly, that we ought to include within the rules of this Conference of the States provisions somewhat like this. I would suggest that this amendment be adopted. I would respond to any questions.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Kristensen, on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I do rise to support this particular amendment. I had not seen it earlier today, and I have had the opportunity over the last couple of hours to read through it. I think that it is something, of course, that I guess earlier on I would be reluctant and probably still am reluctant in a certain measure because I do think that this should be a free flow in exchange of ideas. However, if there are legitimate concerns, I know Senator Chambers feels he has some legitimate concerns, Senator Withem has some legitimate concerns, and this, if this will address those two concerns and some of the issues, I am willing to do so. I don't think this damages the intent of The Conference of the States. It does not impinge upon the ability of that conference to act and operate except for to raise the level, if you are going to deal with constitutional amendments, that it is going to raise and require them to take some extra time and to have a higher number of votes. With that, I can, as long as you don't tie them down as to what specifics they are going to discuss, I can live with this amendment, and I plan to vote for it and would support it at this point in time. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Chambers, on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, this does help a bit, but here is some of the difficulty, not with the amendment itself, but it spotlights the problem that I see with the whole conference. If anybody is following this, and Senator Withem is going to come back to the floor, but I