

not a majority of the states, so it would have to be 26.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That makes it very clear, Senator Withem, and it does put in some measure of protection and a guarantee that I definitely support. So even without that, I was going to support your amendment because it was an improvement, but that gives me an even stronger basis to support it.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, members, I rise in support of the Withem amendment, and I appreciate that Senator Withem has offered this proposal. He is right. He and I had the chance, along with some others, to go back to Washington and hear some discussions on this, and as a member of the Executive Committee, the National Conference of State Legislatures, I've had that chance to hear Governor Leavitt and our Governor Nelson and others talk about this a number of times. I enter this with the idea that we are appropriately addressing a very important topic, that is the proper role of the federal government and the state governments in our society today, in our nation today, and that sort of discussion is healthy. But at the same time, as we've looked at changes in the Congress, and as we've looked at some of the discussion that we have had in some of these meetings, I can't help but share Senator Withem's concern about where all this may be going. I think entering this discussion and entering this conference with an attempt to be balanced and fair-minded is important. Obviously, when you enter into something like this, there is a predisposition to say that we have a problem and that we need to have a solution, and that means change. At the same time, I think we need to be very cautious in how we move forward with change, but a problem we do have, and I want to acknowledge that. I think one of the reasons that we've proposed The Conference of the States is the feeling that the states are losing control and have lost control in some cases, and there are many examples of that as we've been preempted on various issues by the federal government. I know, for instance, current issues that are before us deal with banking and interstate banking legislation that has preempted the states, and in insurance, there have been attempts to preempt the states in that area. And not only does the federal government move in this direction, but also the federal government in conjunction with international trade agreements; with NAFTA, with GATT, they have in part of those agreements in some part preempted the states. And so this has concerned us.