

get this number of signatures. If anybody has ever participated in standing there trying to get signatures on a petition, it's very difficult unless it's an issue that's very understandable and possibly as in the term limits you're talking about paid circulators, but they got...this was just in the last term limits drive. They got the number of signatures without, I believe, paid circulators, or at least not as much on the paid circulator side on the first term limits petition signature. I signed that myself just because that's something that the people believe in, so it should, it's showing the support of the people and it is easier to get signatures in that case. The people in the back here have participated in many of these petition drives and realize how difficult it already is. Now you're asking to make it that much more difficult to do this and to me for no good reason. You're agreeing that people should have the right to do this, and yet you're putting all these stumbling blocks in their way, but you never say why these stumbling blocks should be in the way. You say it shouldn't be as easy for paid circulators as unpaid circulators. You give these as reasons why we have to have a two-tier system. You say they shouldn't have forever to work on these things. They don't have forever to work on these things. Essentially what happens, what usually happens, probably every time it's happened is they've gone ahead, started a petition drive, they have to wait until after the election is over with, and then they file it before the next general election, so they have about 20 months to do a petition drive, 20 months on a volunteer petition drive to get all those signatures from all those counties is very difficult, it's very difficult to do that right now. I cannot see any reason to put another...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...stumbling block in the way of the people who want to participate in this process. When we put in a constitutional amendment, here in the Legislature, we simply ask bill drafters to do it, we bring it through committee, we have that discussion, we have a thorough discussion here on the floor, and then if 25 people, or I guess it's a higher threshold for constitutional amendments, vote for this then it gets on the ballot and then it's open to a vote of the people. They have to go through so much more to get to that same point, to me, it seems like so much more to get to that same point. And why shouldn't people be able to put forth whatever they're behind out there? If we don't, if we don't do it then that's the only