

petition signing. Twenty months, it's almost two years, is quite a long time, it's an awful long time if you've got paid circulators. I'm not so sure it's that long of a time if you've got volunteer circulators. I think if we were to shorten it any the Bernard-Stevens amendment would have been preferable, and I don't...I can't support the Wesely amendment for six months. I think for the volunteer circulators this would be a very difficult proposition. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, are we still on the Bernard-Stevens amendment?

SPEAKER WITHEM: The Bernard-Stevens amendment had a one-year window of opportunity, has been withdrawn. We're back to the underlying Wesely amendment with the six month.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I support that. I have been having conversations around the floor with various members of the Legislature, and I think this issue is being taken seriously, I really do. But I don't know if there is a deep enough appreciation of the necessity of keeping the constitution above the whims of the moment. The only way that can be done is to make it difficult for the public to amend the constitution. I will state frankly what I don't know if anybody else on the floor would say, I would like to see initiative and referendum taken out of the constitution, that's what I would like to see. And I'm not going to stand on this floor and say I have so much confidence in the wisdom of the people, that I don't have. And even in the wisdom of the people in my district who put me here, that's the wisest thing they ever did. But once here, they know that I'm going to disagree with positions that they have. And I'm as blunt and open in everything that I believe or disbelieve, that I support or that I oppose, whether it's offered by somebody in the farthest part of Nebraska from my district or whether it's put together by people within my district. There is a proposal pending in the Judiciary Committee now which wants the Legislature to go on record disassociating itself from something done by a nut who got arrested in Europe and I'm opposed to it. You know who was down here supporting it? The NAACP, peace and freedom. I don't know if the ACIOU did, but a lot of the groups with which I work. They support that resolution, but I'm against it and I didn't avoid or abstain from taking the chair at the committee and