

soon put strychnine in the Constitution as sugar.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, you are recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. The point is like once again that we currently have an unclear restriction on time in terms of how you...how long you can conduct a petition drive. I think, in my view is a potentially unlimited amount of time. There is a provision in the Constitution Senator Beutler and I were discussing about the need to facilitate any petition drive and if we don't put something in the Constitution, I think anything that puts a time restriction on petition drives could have the potential of being ruled as not facilitating petition drive and so I think we ought to go directly at the Constitution and say if we're going to lower this number of signatures, we also ought to take another step and put some time limits on how long you can have. Now currently some would argue it's 20 months. I am suggesting it be six months, but keep in mind that the term limit petition drive needed one month. In one month they got 120,000 signatures or whatever they got. It was incredible. So clearly under certain circumstances you can move very rapidly in this area and if we're going to lower the figures and make it that much easier for people to get signatures. With the modern transportation, telecommunications technology we can cross county lines now. There's all kinds of changes not only in terms of the world around us and our mobility and ability to get around, but similarly changes in the Constitution have freed up the paid petition circulators. We freed up the ability to cross county lines that we used to restrict people on. It is easier, much easier today to get signatures and if we're not going to raise the signature level, at least we should put a time limit on it because in my view you have a better informed electorate. If there is a limited amount of time, then the issue is out in front of the people, they know there's only so much time that's going to be there, they'll focus on, think about it and make a decision. But if you linger on for almost two years, the issue comes up and it's in the paper here and there and you forget about it and somebody comes up and says sign the petition and people are tired of petitions being stuck in front of them and elections coming around all the time, I think they would prefer to have some time limits placed on this as well. I'd ask your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. You've heard the