

SENATOR SCHIMEK: By five months, I'm sorry, five months.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...from 20 months to 15 months.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, I guess I would have to...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Most signatures are...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...oppose it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...are acquired in the last year, as you well know, anyway. So I don't think it really is significant in terms of limiting the signature period.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, thank you very much.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Schimek and Senator Beutler. Senator Dierks, your light is next. He still isn't back with us. Senator Wesely, your light is next on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of the amendment by Senator Beutler. This is probably a better approach to something I raised earlier about the time frame issue. Currently, there is 20 months you can have to move forward on a petition, which is a long period of time. This says you have 15 months, so it's more than what I was hoping for. I wanted to have it six months, so this is definitely more than that. But at the same time by having it in nine months ahead of the election we know before the session, before the election what's up there and we can alternatives, we can work through the issues, we can address them, come up with a better idea to deal with the issue. It gives us a chance to be a player in the process in a way that we're not now. I don't see where it's a negative, I think it's a positive. It gives a chance for us to fully consider. Right now we're always like...right now and next year we'll be talking about some of these petition drives, what should we do, and we'll be in a situation not knowing exactly what's going to happen out there, speculating, trying to respond in a cloud, in a mist. This way we know exactly what the situation is and can respond to it constructively. I think it makes a lot of sense. I praise Senator Beutler for bringing it forward. And I hope that, Senator Schimek, you'll reconsider because this will give us a