

is, whoever can put out the greatest amount of TV advertisement in the last two weeks may well win the matter, because slick advertising in a short time frame can deceive the public. Whereas, if you begin the debate early, nine months ahead of time, if there is a debate at that point in time and the public becomes attuned to the issue, I think they are more likely to make a good decision. So the public debate would start much earlier. The second great beneficial effect, I think this would have, is that if those groups out there who are interested in paid circulators and getting petitions on the ballot by paying circulators, if they know that the Legislature has an opportunity to respond to a petition,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I think they are more likely to be more careful technically and to be broader, philosophically, in drafting their petitions and in the petitions that they circulate. So I think you will see the benefit of actually better petitions being circulated, and that, too, I think you would agree would be a very positive effect. So I think, in short, this proposition has a lot of good ideas, a lot of good results that will flow from it, and really, both in the debate previously and in the debate today, there have been no substantive arguments made against it, except, of course, the contraction of the circulation time from 20 months to 15 months, and I hope that this handout has more than adequately responded to that...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...criticism. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. The question before the body is the adoption of the Beutler amendment. All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: With the total number of people missing, Mr. Speaker, it looks like maybe I should just go ahead and ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question is, shall the house go under call? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 11 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Mr. President.