

process, an easier process than this bill and others are putting into place. So my amendment would just say that an individual circulating a petition would just have to be a registered voter in the State of Nebraska and it would strike the length of time that that individual had to be registered to vote. And I would hope that I could get the votes to support this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in opposition to the Witek amendment, not because I don't think she has some good arguments, I think she does. But if you will recall on General File when we added the severability clause to this amendment I talked about the fact that there was one provision in this bill that there could be questions raised about. And this is the very provision that I'm speaking of, the 30-day requirement. And one of the reasons that I think that we should keep it in, and I asked to have the severability clause added, is because during the course of our discussion in the petition task force, while we were talking about the potential for fraud, two election commissioners who served on that task force were very concerned about the fact that last time when we had the term limits petition drive in this state there were a number of instances, and here in Lancaster County, in which people came into the state, registered at a motel and then registered to vote, and then circulated petitions. And immediately upon turning in the signatures for that petition drive they left the state, they were gone. And there was no way to trace them and there was no way to investigate the potential fraud. And they convinced us on the task force that having some kind of a waiting period would help us to prevent that kind of situation from happening in the future. Now, granted, there may be a few people who legitimately move into the state, who register to vote and who want to circulate petitions who might be hurt by this. And you know, in legalese they say that we haven't defined this narrowly enough for it to be constitutional. But I submit to you that there are...it is in the best interest of the state to try to help alleviate that kind of fraud. And that one of the reasons I favor the 30-day provision rather than the 90-day provision is because I thought that it was a narrower frame of time which would maybe come closer to meeting the constitutional test. I think very good arguments can be made for leaving this provision in because the state does need to have some means by which it