

funds from the departments to implement it. That's not the way you fight unfunded mandates. I mean, these people are still going to have to implement motor voter and so if Senator Witek is serious about doing this, she will introduce the...the bill to repeal the implementation language. There are several states that are not presently implementing the voter...the motor voter legislation and you've already heard about a couple of those. I would like to mention the fact that Senator Witek has perhaps not portrayed the Illinois situation in an exact light because Illinois did lose in court and they were told that they now have to appoint or designate a chief election official to implement motor voter and they also were told that a judge may appoint a special master if they don't get this implemented. The only thing Illinois has won is just simply a stay while the thing is appealed and it is being appealed. California lost in court, in federal district court, I believe it was, and they were told they had ten days to implement motor voter. I think the court decisions have been going against the states who have been trying to fight motor voter. Now I will say it's not all over, it's not over, as Senator Robinson says, till the fat lady sings, and who knows what will happen by the time we get to the Supreme Court. I'm not making any predictions, but for now I would say that it is our responsibility to implement motor voter. And you know what, motor voter is working. Now they're predicting that 20 million new voters will be registered in the United States this year. In state after state, three times, ten times, thirteen times the number of registrants are being registered as compared to last year at the same time, and Nebraska is no exception. Now the interesting news is, for some of you, is that there are more Republicans that are registering than Democrats. Now if you really thought about it, Senator Robinson and Senator Witek and some of you, you all should be praising my efforts. I've probably done more to help the Republican Party in this state than anybody else in this Legislature.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Call 911, I'm going to pass out.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: (Laughter.) But I'm sure that I probably won't get those kind of accolades. But even had I known that before we passed the motor voter legislation last year, I still would have been in favor of it because I truly believe in allowing people and giving them every opportunity we can to register to vote. In ten years from now, if we're still doing motor voter, we may be registering more Democrats. I think we