

court had blocked a lower court judge's order that the state conform with the federal motor voter statute. I believe that this will begin happening across the United States, especially considering the change in the election last November, the mood of the country against this type of federal mandate, an unfunded federal mandate, and just the mandate itself. It's costing the State of Nebraska nearly \$250,000 a year and what my amendment would do would be to take out the appropriations that have been unspent, which are approximately \$237,043 from the agencies of Secretary of State, Social Services, Motor Vehicles, DPI, Health and Education, not...and not to be used for compliance with motor voter. And this amendment would simply take that money away from the second year of appropriations from those agencies. I would hope that you would support it. I know many of you do not support the federal mandate on motor voter and this is just one way to have Nebraska speak loud and clear in opposition to federal mandates, and I think with the states or the courts starting to rule in opposition to motor voter that this is something that will continue to happen. And I hope you'll support taking this money out of these budgets. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Wehrbein on the Witek amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, and members of the body, I hope that we don't have to discuss this a long time this morning because we made a lot of arguments on this particular amendment the other day. And I think that the main thing that I would say to you this morning, and repeating what I said the other day, is that this amendment doesn't really do what it's purported to do. It doesn't do away with the federal mandate. All it does away with is the money for the departments to implement it. A more straightforward way of accomplishing the task would be to introduce the bill that does away with the federal mandate and implementing language. At the time that this bill was being discussed on the floor, there was a lot of discussion about the fiscal note and one of the things that we did during the course of that discussion was we whittled down that fiscal note and to a point where I felt that we probably had done the best we could with it. Now, one of the larger portions of the fiscal note on it is the Department of Social Services but that is because they have to do so many of these voter registration requests and interviews that it is extremely time consuming. And if you...if you take away the money, you probably take away the extra staff that's hired and then the job falls upon those who have other