

responsibilities. So I do think it would be very unfair to cut this money without cutting the implementation language. The other thing that I mentioned on General...on the first debate on it was the fact that Illinois has not won anything yet. Illinois, in fact, was told by a federal district court to implement the bill and to hire or, if necessary, to hire a special master to do so and to appoint an election official who would be in charge of motor voter in that state. California also lost in court and was told they had ten days to implement the language. They, too, are appealing. There...most states have complied with motor voter and those who have not have either been brought to the table by a citizens' group who have threatened to sue or they have been...they have been sued by the federal government. So I think that no matter how you feel about motor voter, whether you approved of it or not, that's not the question here. The question is, do we provide enough money for the employees in those departments to do their jobs adequately? The final thing that I...that I mentioned when we discussed it earlier and that should be repeated is that motor voter really is working and that one of the things it's doing that I think is terrific is it's registering a lot of young people. Now some of the naysayers would say that, oh, those folks won't vote, but we don't know that until...until they're given a chance. They predict that 20 million people, 20 million new voters will be registered to vote this year and the results have been phenomenal. We do not have the figures yet here in Nebraska and I don't believe we plan on having the figures until the end of the year, but I have seen news stories about the efforts, for instance, here in Lancaster County and it's been very positive. Those registrations in January and February far exceeded those of the year before, and this isn't even a major election year, so that I'm sure that we will continue to have that benefit. In addition, I might remind you that motor voter does make it easier, in some respects, on your election commissioners and county clerks because it's a constant kind of registration and it doesn't all bunch up in the last month or two right before the election. So, for your local county clerks and election commissioners...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Half a minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...it should...it should be more economical for them. They shouldn't have to hire as many extra help right around the election to help with voter registration. With that, I would simply urge that you vote against the Witek amendment.