

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, and members, I rise to oppose the amendment, and I repeat what I said last week, whatever day that was, not so much that I disagree with the intent of what Senator Witek wants to do. I probably would support it. This does not get to that point. Taking the money out of these agencies doesn't take away their responsibility to do this administrative work in their agencies. If we were to go that far, we need to make some statute changes. And simply cutting the money out of this simply means those agencies have to go ahead and do it anyway and spend the money from some other program or operation. So simply taking the money out doesn't do what you want to do. It takes a statute change, in my opinion. We need to make an overall policy change that Nebraska is not going to participate. That really is the only fair way to do it. So taking this money out at this point I do not think solves the dilemma at all. The money will be spent. It's going to come out of other...some other program. The proper way will be...is to ir reduce a bill, at this point it has to be next year, I assume, and get us out of the business of the motor voter. But taking it here simply hurts the agencies and I would urge you to oppose this motion at this point.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: It's not necessary. There are no further lights. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I guess I didn't want a big discussion on motor voter here on the floor. It was just to try to get the money that was appropriated last year out of those agencies. And I guess, in my mind, if you...if you don't supply the state tax dollars, and I was told by Senators Exon and Kerrey that it wouldn't cost nearly these amounts of money to implement. I have letters from the senators explaining that it wouldn't cost nearly those amounts of money and they both voted for it. And it has turned out to cost that because we've appropriated that much money, quite frankly, that's why it costs that much because we've appropriated that much money. So I have from the very mouths of the individuals who voted for this legislation that it shouldn't cost that much