

the governor had made those appointments and those individuals were also state employees, they kind of know where their allegiances should lie and it is very difficult to imagine that there are individuals out there who could be comfortably unbiased, especially if their own agencies or people that they know within those agencies are being looked into. That is entirely possible too. I know it is possible for someone appointed from outside of the state employee pool to also have their own individual business, but I think that is a much smaller group of people and possibility than it is for a state employee to look at things that are happening within a state because this does include the EEOC looking at state agencies and discrimination within the state, itself. So that is part of my concern there. If you don't want to adopt this amendment, maybe we could look into the possibility of bringing an amendment that said that they could not be a majority of the commission, so that we could further diversify the individuals who are chosen for this commission. I would be more comfortable with even that language than the language that is in this amendment. And there must have been some reason in the original bill drafting to have state employees exempted from being appointed to the commission, and I believe that that was probably the reasoning that they needed to have a little more outside influences than inside influences. And I still say that it does give the opportunity for more political op...politicizing of the EEOC, and I hope that you would still choose to adopt this measure just from that point of view, from saying that it does allow for the appearance of the politicalization of the EEOC, and I don't want to see that happen. Like I said this morning, I would rather see the agency done away with than see it further political...politicized. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Witek. I would like to recognize guests of Senator Hilgert. Under the south balcony, we have Angel Starks and Kate Joyce, if the two of you would please stand. Senator Chambers, for discussion on the Witek amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, in this area of the committee amendments we are looking at, I have a couple of questions I would like to ask of Senator Warner.

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING