

have full-blown casino gambling in Omaha. And this could rightly happen. So I guess I want people to understand when they are asking for expanded gambling, and they're asking for this language to come into the voting booth and to be voted on by the people of the state of Nebraska, what you are asking for is a blank check, in essence, or a blank bill to the Legislature. You won't have the parameters of what will be allowed in the state of Nebraska at that time. You will have an approval to come back to the Legislature, for us to set the parameters at that time of how we will do gambling in the state of Nebraska. The voters vote is to allow us to do so. The voters vote is not necessarily to allow expanded gambling in a certain form, it's to allow expanded gambling in whatever form the Legislature so approves when we bring this back to the Legislature for approval. So I wanted to make that exactly clear because most of the letters, most of the phone calls, most of the conversations that I'm having on this subject is people think that when they are asking for this vote they think, well we're going to ask for slot machines, or we're going to get to vote on slot machines, or we're going to get to vote on this or that. It won't be that way. It will be, as this language says, a constitutional amendment to create a Gaming Commission and to permit the Legislature to authorize and regulate games of chance, included player activated electronic, video and mechanical gaming devices, and use of the proceeds...we will decide the use of the proceeds also, for property tax relief, charitable or community betterment purposes, civic benefit, job creation, economic development. The language in this bill also says "may", the Legislature "may" authorize and regulate, and the Legislature "may" decide that they will use these for purposes...these monies for purposes of property tax relief, charitable gaming and community betterment purposes. It doesn't say we have to. None of this is...this is all permissive language. So, in essence, when people vote on this in the voting booth they're telling us we can do whatever we want. So you're giving us the permission to go ahead and do whatever we decide is...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...is...whatever we decide, and wherever we decide to put the money. So at the time of voting, I want to make that exactly clear to the people who are having this discussion outside the Legislature, at the time of voting on