

February 20, 1996 LB 964

where the registered voter isn't that person, so there's going to be a lot of ballots floating around out there on a lot of these issues. And I think the potential for fraud exists to a much greater degree than making someone actually go all the way to a voting booth. I disagree with Patty Hansen, the commissioner here in Lancaster County and the comments that she made, like it was some huge... putting someone out tremendously, asking them to go to some voting place to vote instead of voting from their home with their mail-in ballots. I can understand in Senator Jones's district and Senator Cudaback's district where you're saving a lot of money. I don't understand walking up to your child's elementary school is no problem. We have a lot of people that he p out anyone who can't... who can't do that in my area. So my concern is with the disastrous lists of registered voters that we deal with in Douglas County in our elections. And I have heard that that exists in other parts of the state. So I think we're initiating a process here that I would be much more comfortable with seeing it in a pilot program, seeing how it works than (inaudible) it all to the state, that's been done with the majority of people on this floor. But I wanted to have on the record that I was very concerned about this bill and this process. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker, members. I have some concerns about this particular bill also, and I was intending to listen a little more to the debate today. Senator Cudaback, one of the things I did check into is the absentee ballot list. I guess that list is available to those people that ask for absentee ballots. That is available to the public to get that list. And I was trying... I have been opposed to this bill, partly because I was concerned about the integrity and potential harassment of voters. In a sense that has happened, maybe not harassment is not a good word, but at least there has been real efforts to contact absentee ballot holders after they're... because that list is released to those that get them. Now it's not... it isn't known who returns them until after the election is over. But it does provide a focal group for those that want to work on the absentee ballot holders. And I'm concerned that that could happen here. And obviously they wouldn't have to have the list here because it's going to be open to everybody, everybody will know that everyone got the mail-in ballot. But I do also know that in the case of the