

their particular way, and they're one-sided, get them to agree with that and say let's get this sucker done and they say, right. And Senator Cudaback would be right, they would be voting but under a totally different rule setup than what we vote today. What we vote today is I get to go into the booth and vote my conscience at the time. Under Senator Cudaback's proposal, if we're trying to overcome a spending limit or a cap limit, we would have people who literally could have people at their doorstep. We don't have that with voters today. I don't know why you'd want to have that with voters in the future. So it does interrelate and that's the rationale...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that I'm using.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Would like to pause one second and recognize some guests of Senator Schellpeper. We have four seniors, teacher and sponsor from Laurel. Could you folks please rise and be recognized. I guess the answer is, no, they can't so, but thank you all for being here anyway. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President, members of the body, I'm not going to try to prolong the debate, but I do need to respond to a couple of things that Senator Bernard-Stevens said. And, you know, his rationale is good if you're arguing against the bill. But his rationale is not good if you're arguing for the Bernard-Stevens amendment because what he is saying in effect is that it's still... I mean he's saying really I think that it's bad to allow this to happen no matter where. But what his amendment says, it's bad to allow mail-in voting in the larger districts in this state; and I take issue with that. I think we're just as capable of conducting mail-in balloting here as they are in North Platte or Oshkosh or all across the state. And I think that again it is going to be decided by the people in their communities where it should be decided. Secondly, I'd like to address the idea of democracy because to me democracy involves as many people as possible. I want to encourage people to vote. I think Senator Robinson alluded to it when he was talking about people maybe not having the opportunity to vote during regular election hours. That happens. People work two shifts or they work different shifts and have commute time and have difficulty getting to the polls. Of course, they can always ask for absentee ballots; but in