

essence that's what this is is absentee balloting on a larger scale. I think that we don't...if we can make it easier for people to vote, we should do it. Why should we put up obstacles in their path? Don't we want to encourage people to participate in the process? If you allow them to do that, if you give them an easier route to do that, you're going to get a larger voter turnout. Is that what we're afraid of? I don't think we should be. I urge you to vote against the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: And we also have some guests of Senator Pedersen's, 47 fourth graders from Bennington Elementary School and their teachers are there in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Senator Robinson, your light is on, followed by Senator Witek.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I stand again to oppose the Bernard-Stevens amendment. I can't believe what I'm hearing. We're diluting the process. We want more people to vote and we're diluting the process. And people are getting harassed. By gosh, people are going to come around and state their views on an amendment to increase the sales tax or for a bond issue and you're being harassed. You know what they call that? Senator Bohlke, you call that democracy. That's what you call it. That's what you call it. We've lived with it forever and we ought to increase it as much as we can. I don't think many people get harassed. Do you listen to TV every night? Have you been listening to it the last two or three weeks? You've been getting harassed. I want you to know that. And read the World-Herald editorial section, you're getting harassed because they're trying to change your...they're trying to convince you of something. I know a lot of people say you're getting harassed when you read the World-Herald editorial situation. Senator Kristensen is smiling, Senator Schimek is laughing. You're not getting harassed. You don't have to read the paper, you can turn the TV off. If you don't want to listen to people, tell them to move on. My gosh, that's what we try to do. We try to get all the information and then try to make a worthwhile decision. And if it's good for people, and I think Senator Chambers hit on this, if it's good for a community of 5,000 people, why isn't it all right for larger communities, middle-size communities and large communities? It should be because we're getting more people involved in the political process and that's what we should be doing. So as I said, I oppose the Bernard-Stevens amendment. Thank you.