

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I was going to call the question, but I just have to take this opportunity to tell Senator Witek I'm so glad to hear her say all these positive things about LB 76, it's great and it's on the record, too, Kate. The thing, though, that I would like to say is that I'm going to support and I mentioned a while ago that I'm going to support one of the Witek amendments here with the exception of one part of it. I think that we do need to have good language in our statutes that does prevent fraud. I think a lot of the parts of LB 76 that were passed apply to the mail-in ballot as well. But I'm not afraid of even duplicating if we need to to make people feel more secure. So with that, I just...I'll shut up.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, you're recognized to close.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: You're thanking me for Senator Schimek saying she's going to shut up at that point or thanking me that it's close, but we'll just leave that from there (laughter). Senator Schimek gave one of my speeches that I give, and we end it a little bit differently, but the result is the same. Members of the body, this amendment is not about, for me, it's not about communities 5,000 or less have anything, an advantage where they should be able to do it by mail over communities that are higher than that. It's not about that. The senators that have been arguing that are absolutely correct. And if you want to go on the policy of allowing bond issues to go or any issue special election to go by mail, then I suspect you want to support the Schimek amendment. I don't support the policy, and I've tried to be very up front with that. My fear is twofold. I disagree strongly with Senator Schimek's characterization of what is good democracy, but that's the democratic process. We get to argue about what we believe the fair process is. I believe we do make it easy for people to vote. We make it easy for them to register by motor-voter and other things that we have supported and I like that. And this is how hard we make it in this country to vote. Once you're registered, you walk to the voting place and you vote. And we also make sure that everyone I think that's within 200 yards or feet or so that are trying to campaign or trying to have bumper stickers or pamphlets away from the voting booth so that you can vote in the American style of voting which is you, your conscience, and the ballot and no one bothers you. It's your time to speak as an