

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I appreciated Senator Chambers discussing all the situations where this amendment would not be appropriate, although we have seen fit to have some distance at the polling booth because of a lot of the situations, and Senator Schimek mentioning that it would prevent a husband and wife from speaking to someone in the home, or even another family member, but the point I think that we should pause and ponder is maybe that's why we have polling places, so that the opportunity to have some of these other broad policies in place. It's a much better, probably much more constitutional way to do our election process than the mail-in ballot where you can see from all the discussion on my amendment, on this amendment, there is a number of areas where we probably constitutionally can't do a number of the fraud amendments, or fraud provisions that we now do to the polling place. So there is no way, once we do a mail-in ballot, to prevent the same types of fraud situations that we now prevent with our statutes on fraud when we have legitimate polling places. We still have to stay a distance from a school, but we can't keep our distance from someone's home. We still have to have that distance on election day where an individual can walk into a polling place, but it is going to be very difficult to put anything into statute that would prevent that from happening at a person's home. And that's what you are doing. You are making with the mail-in ballot the home the polling place, just as you do with the absentee ballot. If individuals want the opportunity to vote absentee, they have it right now, but you are changing. You are making a huge policy change here I don't think without thinking it through, even given the discussion on just this one amendment, on a fraud policy. One amendment on suggestions on fraud policy, and the people who are for the Cudaback Bill go ballistic on how this can't be done, and that's my point. We are going to have a very difficult time controlling the fraud, the opportunities for fraud, when we mail a ballot to someone's home, even mail a ballot to a home where we don't even know if an individual lives there anymore, the registered individual lives there anymore. So there are a number of problems with this bill and I am glad you took the time to illuminate for me, Senator Witek, or Senator Chambers and Senator Schimek and Senator Robinson, some of the issues that we are going to have to address or should address with the fraud issues in the making of the polling place the home. And at this time, since everybody is hungry, I will pull this amendment and start on my next one maybe next time this is up.