

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That's fine. We don't have to be consistent.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in support of the suspension, the motion to suspend the rules, and I do sympathize with Senator David Bernard-Stevens' feelings on the whole issue of the levy limits and the caps on spending. And I, too, have some real strong feelings about how we have to be careful what we're doing and that we don't harm those children. This bill is not the bill to get upset with, I don't think. That's my opinion, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I know that you don't like this bill. You haven't liked it from the word go, and we've had a good debate on it; and I think the body is really ready to move the bill. I think the body supports it. And I think that if we had had a concern about the kinds of elections that were going to be held under this amendment that...or under this bill, that we could have had an amendment filed yesterday or we could have had an amendment filed the day before, the day before that, or whatever. This bill's been around for a while. But one second before the bill was ready to move, the amendment was filed. And I'm not saying that there is anything wrong with that. I'm just saying that it was sort of a shocker. And I don't think people supported the idea of the amendment, and I think the timing was bad. I guess I would hope that the body would vote to suspend the rules, then those who are upset with the bill or don't like the bill will have the opportunity to vote against the bill. I don't think that I would support the amendment that you're suggesting that would put us, as candidates, on a ballot because I said from the very beginning that we have lots of evidence about ballots that have issues only on them. Very few states have tried the candidate oriented ballots yet, and I'm willing to wait till we have more evidence and we have more studies on this. I don't think that's treating us differently. I mean if you put us on, then you better put on the gubernatorial candidates, you better put on the presidential candidates. I mean once you open that door, I don't really think it would be fair to close it again. So it would be perfectly...I am perfectly happy in supporting this bill that deals only with the ballot issues. I know you don't like the bill, Senator. I know that you haven't liked it from