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Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President and members of the body. This is one of those over my dead body kind of bills, and if you will notice that in the committee statement, the committee was somewhat divided on this particular bill, and I guess I'd like to explain my no vote coming out of committee, and my general philosophy regarding these kinds of bills. I appreciate and understand what Senator Chambers is trying to do here, and I empathize with what he is trying to do. I am not certain if this is the way to do it, but philosophically I always oppose bills that try to make elected officials elected on a nonpartisan basis. And I, I guess I'm probably one of the stronger proponents of a two-party system in this country and that's my primary reason for opposition. I think that though parties have...have traditionally over the last ten to twenty years been weakened substantially, I think they have a very important role in our system in winnowing out candidates and serving as an umbrella group for the kinds of issue discussions that we need to take place in this country which would be very, very difficult if you didn't have a two-party system. I maintain that the two-party system in our country is why we have elections by ballots and not bullets, as in some other countries with multiparty ser...multiparty systems and I just always want to do something, all I can, to preserve that particular process. We had a bill before the committee this year that talked about opening up the primaries in Nebraska, and the committee has kind of just...actually, I think we killed that bill because there is a bill before Congress right now about...I mean there is a, excuse me, a case before the Supreme Court right now that is probably going to decide that very issue. It is out of California and somebody is challenging the system out there. So I guess I would discourage this kind of bill. I would discourage our making the Attorney General elected on a nonpartisan ballot. I think there is a certain accountability built in to being a candidate of the party, and you don't necessarily get that with a nonpartisan system. I don't think the bill will do what Senator Chambers wants it to do and it will assure us that we will have a nonpartisan, nonpolitical Attorney General. I don't disagree with him that that would be the ideal, but I think in the real world this person could very well be just as political as if elected on a partisan ballot.