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to request with such a weighty issue as this. I hope that we can defeat LB 53. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. I don't see anybody wishing to discuss it. Senator Schimek, you're recognized to close on committee amendments, as Chairperson of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. And thank you all for your part in this discussion, even Senator Smith (laugh), who's giving us a bad time here this morning. Senator Smith, this isn't about politics. This really isn't about politics. I mean, this proposal came out of the Vote Nebraska Initiative, which was a bipartisan, nonpartisan kind of group. It was actually selected by Secretary of State Gale. And they came to the conclusion by a...it was either 14 to 2 or 12 to 2 vote, I don't remember which without looking...that this is a policy that should be instituted. And yes, it was all part of that idea that we need to look at all kinds of ways that we can have better voter turnout. And so in that instance I think that you're right. We looked at it as a way to encourage people to vote. I'd also remind you that the Ford-Carter task force, back in the mid-nineties, I think it was '96, actually recommended that this happen, that we restore the right to vote to ex-felons. So I don't think there's anything political about it, nothing that would suggest it would be an advantage to anybody in particular. I'd also remind you that there are many organizations, such as the American Bar Association, that have stood in favor of doing this for some time. Just to remind you, the committee amendment is the two-year provision, which would allow some time between release and between the restoration of the right to vote. With that, Mr. President, I would urge adoption of the committee amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. The question before the body is, shall the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendments, AM0058, be adopted to LB 53? All in favor of the question vote aye; those opposed to the question vote nay. Have you all voted on the question who care to? We're voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Have