



## Deliciously Dead

February 23, 2026

The bill died. Had it lived, it would have—in the [words](#) of Tim Eyman—taken away Washington State voters’ “right to initiative, they would stop all dissent.”

Who’s the “they”? Democrats running the State legislature, who had, Eyman says, been “pushing this thing really hard this session.”

But *they* gave up. The opposition to the bill was just too strong. Democrats let it die before the scheduled vote on the Senate floor.

So what was wrong with the bill?

“SB 5973 would have required a minimum of 1,000 signatures to be submitted to the Secretary of State from those who support the measure, before the issue is given

an official title and signature gathering can begin to ensure ‘viability’ of the issue,” [explains](#) Carleen Johnson of *The Center Square*. It would “also have banned the practice of paying signature gatherers for the number of signatures they acquire.”

It was, as opponents called it, an “[initiative killer](#).” You can see why fighting the bill was so important.

And remember, “initiative killers” are everywhere—at least everywhere initiative and referendum rights are in place.

Politicians, who allegedly serve citizens, don’t like it when citizens work around their machinations. So they regularly throw up roadblocks to the initiative process—anything to make it harder for citizens to limit their incessant lust for more taxes, terms of office, etc.

Citizen activists all across the country have their work cut out for them. But, until the next major legislative attack (tomorrow): celebrate!

And don’t forget to thank Tim Eyman and other Washington activists for stepping up to defend everyone’s rights.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.