

their money, who is contributing that we have to other campaigns. It establishes the reporting procedures then with accountability and disclosure statements, I think, basically the same type of procedures that any of us have to follow when we run for public office. So I would urge you to accept this amendment and will respond to any questions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Withem amendment. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, and I know time is running out. I would rise in support of the Withem amendment and also indicate my unfortunate recognition that we have lost the right to ban the payment of circulators of petitions. I just think that is absolutely wrong, runs counter to the concept and I wish...I don't know if there is any options we have other than the constitutional amendment. Evidently, we don't have any. Senator Baack, could you respond to that? Is there any options this Legislature has to get back at that issue?

SENATOR BAACK: The Government Committee is looking at a number of options and I had proposed a couple of ones but, you know, they're just...they're in the initial stages. We're looking at what some other states are doing to deal with this and some other states have some constitutional things they are doing dealing with payment of circulators. We're looking very seriously at those.

SENATOR WESELY: When we're talking about a constitutional problem we're not talking about a state constitutional but a national...

SENATOR BAACK: Yeah, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states simply do not have the right to prohibit payment.

SENATOR WESELY: Which really limits our options, obviously, so...

SENATOR BAACK: It does.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Withem, could I ask one question of you?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem.