

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would, Mr. Speaker. This is a bill that came to us from a kind of strange situation that arose down in Bellevue where lots of strange situations arise, Senator Hartnett. The current statute calls for filing a campaign statement when \$2,000 or more is raised. Last year the Bellevue School Board election, there were three candidates who felt that they had views very similar to each other and that they might have more of an impact on the election if the three of them campaigned together. So they pooled their campaign resources, bought all their campaign materials, campaign signs, advertisements together, and campaigned as a team. When people began to look around and says, my gosh, there must have been more than \$2,000 spent on all of this information, they haven't filed yet, yeah, I don't know just exactly what was said, but my assumption is they says, well, the law really says \$2,000 per candidate, and so until we raise \$6,000, we shouldn't have to file. Well, what this bill clarifies is, again, what I think is the original intent that if a committee is formed and the candidates are campaigning as a team under a single committee, once \$2,000 is raised, they should have to comply with the statute for reporting. And I see after dinging him a little bit, Senator Hartnett turned his light on, so maybe he can shed a little more light on the situation. Again, it is a fairly simple bill and I'd urge you to support it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. For discussion purposes, Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker,, and members of the body, I think Senator Withem did an excellent job of explaining because I think that when these, it was a candidate of three of people ran, it was really unclear in the state law as it relates to accountability whether they had...they could raise over \$3,000 and it could be separate, and so I think what Senator Withem is doing is to...it clarifies, with this bill, it clarifies that if it is a team of people running together as a slate, once they hit that threshold with \$2,000, their accountability kicks in, and so I support this bill wholeheartedly. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the bill? Senator Withem, for close.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would waive closing.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is, shall LB 601 be