

Baack's amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: The amendment to the amendment is adopted. Are there further amendments on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Ashford would move to amend the bill.

SENATOR WARNER: Raise the call. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, members, this amendment is an amendment very similar to a piece of legislation that was introduced, I introduced a couple years ago, LB 149, and it arises out...first of all, it's a very serious amendment. It's one, an amendment that I believe in very strongly and what it effectively does is put limitations on PAC contributions, political party contributions and, I'm sorry, unions, corporations and PACs and to start with, I passed out a list of the members of the Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform, a task force that was created by the Governor that met and came up with certain recommendations for campaign finance reform and the task force recommended in paragraph 8 of its recommendations certain limitations on individual contributions of political action committees, political parties and then aggregates of political action committees, corporations and unions. For example, in legislative races the limitation, as is in this amendment, is a \$5,000 limitation by each PAC, corporation or union, \$5,000 limitation by each political party and an aggregate, an aggregate limitation of all of the PAC, corporate and union contributions is \$17,500 which is equal to 35 percent of the total limitations in the bill. Now, philosophically, the...I have always felt that the problem in campaign reform is primarily one of individual contributions by PACs and corporations and unions and not necessarily overall spending limits. I think the bill that Senator Baack has brought to the Legislature is an excellent effort to address the overall spending limit problem and the only way possible to do it and that is to put a public funding piece to it and there really is no other way to do it. The way that Senator Baack has addressed it is a fairly ingenious way and it addresses the one problem of overall spending. It may or may not put a limit on spending in any particular race. It doesn't absolutely put a limit on individual races, on spending in individual races but it certainly encourages a limit and for those of you who feel that that is problem as I do, vote for that, that overall limitation.