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SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Good afternoon and welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. Roll call. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Do you have any items for the record?

CLERK: I do not have items at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Okay, before we continue on with where we were, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Conway today. We have 12 students from Wayne State College and their teacher. They're in the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thanks for being with us. Mr. Clerk, we're on the Ashford amendment. And the first speaker I have is Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I rise to support Senator Ashford in this amendment. I believe that we do need contribution limits, as well as limitations on spending. Actually, each one of us should be making that decision by ourself. And, certainly, I think it should be far less than Senator Ashford has put in his amendment. I know I agonized when I first ran, over just what amount of money would be unduly influential. And I took a lot of time to think about that. And being a new candidate and definitely not expected to win, nobody ever came close to even giving me the amount which I had set at \$1,000. And that's why I think actually we ought to be straight up. This bill really is a bill for incumbents, in my estimation. Even with the public funding it will be incumbents that have the edge. Even if we limit contributions, it will be incumbents that have the edge. Even if we limit spending, incumbents will have the edge. Right now the incumbents have the edge because they are written up in the media, particularly if they do the things that the media likes about them. Every organization, every association, every agency of state government has a state paper, and if you are an advocate for that association, organization or agency, your name will be printed loud and clear in those papers. Now that