

this amendment, of course, repeals the entire law. First of all, it is a remarkable insult, I think, to the public and to what we've represented to the public all this time. And I would be very disappointed with this Legislature if it were interested in doing something like this. The Campaign Finance Reform Act is a very creative, is a very...can be a very effective means of limiting campaign expenditures without, in essence, spending any public money. I hope that there is enough understanding of how the law operates as it operates now that most people in the body understand there will probably be no expenditure of public money, because there will be no incentive to go beyond the campaign expenditure law. But there does need to be money in a pot in order to effectuate the disincentive to spend beyond the limitation. Senator Bernard-Stevens was against this bill when it was passed by an overwhelming majority of the Legislature a few years ago, he continues to be against it, I understand that. But I think the public is highly supportive of campaign limitations. I think it's unfortunate that the decisions of the United States Supreme Court force us to do, in ways that are indirect, what should be able to be done directly, that is to directly put in place limitations but all of you are also aware that the court does not allow us to do that, that the acceptance of the limitation has to be voluntary on the parts of candidates and, therefore, we are forced to work with mechanisms that are voluntary mechanisms. But to have derived a system, and I think that what we have here in Nebraska is unique, to have derived a system that has an excellent chance of being determined to be voluntary by the courts and at the same time result in no public expenditures or very little in terms of public expenditures is a very unique solution. And it would be a great misfortune for members of this body not to afford that opportunity, that law to be effectuated and to be experimented with and to go through a series of elections at the legislative level this next time around. Senator Bernard-Stevens also well knows that this amendment will not result in the repeal of the Campaign Finance Reform Act because, should the amendment get attached, I will not advance the bill. And so all it is is a kill motion by another name and a kill motion by another name is just that, a kill motion. So I hope that you will continue to grapple with the problem. The solution I am offering you today, I think, is an excellent solution. General Fund appropriations would be an excellent solution. In any event, all we're struggling to do now is to establish for the immediate future, on a temporary basis, a fund, and it's not all that much money. The will of this body to promote reform in this particular area is really a