

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't know...(interruption).

SENATOR ROBINSON: Say there...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I can't know...I cannot know the legal answer for sure as to whether that ..are you asking me whether that right to a public funding is like an entitlement that has to be paid by the state?

SENATOR ROBINSON: Right, that's my question.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't know the answer to that.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I would just like to encourage you, obviously, not to vote for the repeal of the Campaign Finance Reform Act. I think that would be a major mistake in a number of ways, especially with regard to the public expectation and the public desire, which I think is very real, to limit campaign expenditures. And I think that the only real way that you can get to campaign finance reform is to limit the overall expenditures of the candidate. I think most of the other avenues that we try to chase down in terms of political reform really don't go anywhere. The one that does go somewhere is to effectively limit the amount of expenditures in a campaign. I think it can have a very positive effect in terms of making it possible for people to run competitive races in terms of making it less possible for wealthy people to simply buy their way into office, or for small groups of wealthy people to buy somebody else's way into office. I think campaign expenditure reform can have a very positive effect in terms of making it possible to have competitive real races in many of the elections that go on. I think it also will have a positive effect in terms of turning candidates' attentions to meeting the people of the district, doing more face-to-face campaigning, relying less upon money and media. I think that face-to-face contact is very positive. That's how you get to know your constituents. That's how you get to know your district. I think it will also encourage the use of volunteers, involving more people in campaigns, more people in the educational process