

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...are wealthy people. Right?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: No, not necessarily. Someone could go take a mortgage on their home if they were not wealthy, they could take a mortgage on their home. They could then loan the money into a campaign and utilize the same techniques, and it basically discourages that concept, except within the limits of this act, and I admit that it is a...it tries to be a rational, realistic methodology of determining the viability of a candidacy. I happen to personally believe that the ability to raise contributions is part of the ingredient of what is a viable candidacy.

SENATOR BEUTLER: What, in your philosophy, is the negative part of...the negative thing in doing this, in loaning yourself money?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: The example that I used in explaining the bill on the floor, as I solicited cosponsors, is that as the law is now written in Nebraska...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Brashear, you are recognized

SENATOR BRASHEAR: I will continue to respond to the question, Senator Beutler. As the law is now written in Nebraska, an individual of means, we'll say of means, but maybe a person of assets who wanted to take a mortgage on their house, I think that's irrelevant. A person who had the means and wanted to use the methodology could loan their campaign...I'm going to use round numbers, a million dollars. Their opponent, unable to match in any way that would be leveraged out of the race given ads, telecommunications, all those kinds of things, that would be permissible if the million were spent. But, as the law is written, and if it's done as a loan, then after the individual has won the office, everyone knows they are going to have that office, the power of that office, the influence of that office, they can then go out and solicit from the constituency the monies to repay that loan in its entirety, having invested nothing, because they got it all back and they can even, as the law is written, repay themselves at the highest, lawful rate of interest permitted in the State of Nebraska which is, what now, 16 or 18 percent, if they have the inclination to behave in that way.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Does your bill prohibit the payback of the