

I missed last week I got the chance to watch you all and hear this whole debate on television and I was feeling very discouraged towards the end of the day on Friday, as I'm sure Senator Beutler was, with the way things were going and it didn't seem that the bill itself was going to make it, although it never did come to a vote. But I did hear, I thought elements in the discussion that people were feeling that maybe General Funds were the way to go, that to my mind anyway and I incidentally have an amendment drafted this morning that would do just what Senator Beutler's amendment is doing but it would appropriate \$75,000 a year for that. But it seems to me that the rationale is if it's a good public policy then the public ought to pay for it. It ought to be paid for by everybody and I know that's going to be a problem for some people, but you know we've dealt with this problem for maybe four years now as to the funding and nobody seems to be able to come up with a real viable alternative. I've got some other alternatives that are possibilities that are also drafted as amendments if we can't decide on this particular funding, but I would encourage you to support this and let's get this bill over to General File and we can have some discussions meanwhile on any other questions that you might have. But I think it's exceedingly important, as Senator Beutler indicated the other day, that we not let the public down on this. I think that we have said we believe in this policy and I think that the public is expecting us to come through with the funding. So with that I just encourage the adoption of the Beutler amendment.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Schimek, just to indicate the power of your words, you said, let's advance this bill to General File, and lo and behold, that's where it is right now, so good work. Senator Beutler, would you like to close on your amendment?

**SENATOR BEUTLER:** Speaker Withem, members of the Legislature, the amendment again is very simple. It strikes all of the provisions in the campaign finance reform bill, 548, as they are now so we don't have to deal with the taxation of campaign committees and simply substitutes as funding the minimal amount of funding which it appears might be necessary at the maximum, to fund simply the next cycle of legislative races. It's a kind of bare bones approach to it all, but I think what you were telling me the other day is you don't want financing in place, ad infinitum on this, until you see how it works. That's fair enough from my perspective. So the amendment would put 50,000