

amendment we have lights from Senator Chambers, Schimek and Brashear.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I want to ask Senator Beutler a question about something which I think is very clear based on the way it is written, but I want to call attention to it and it probably is something we talked about last year because it looks familiar to me. Senator Beutler, on page 4 starting in line 14 are these words, "In addition to the requirements provided in subsection (3) of this section, each candidate desiring to receive public funds for the primary election period shall raise an amount equal to at least 25 percent of the primary election period spending limitation for the office from persons who are residents of Nebraska." Does that mean that, and let me use an arbitrary number for ease of our discussion. Whatever the office is, the primary limit would be \$100,000. If I wanted to receive public funding because I know that my opponent is going to spend \$200,000, I would first have to raise \$25,000 from people within Nebraska, isn't that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So if I am a candidate who does not hustle money, this would force me to become a hustler of campaign funds contrary to my ordinary practice in order to get the public funding. In other words, it forces somebody who ordinarily does not even engage in this activity to engage in it to reach the point where there's a possibility of having the field leveled out. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, that's not actually correct in the sense that this was designed to deal with serious candidates and with people who had the potential to be serious candidates. These people who raise very small amounts of money and are there simply to make a point or two are not deterred in any way from making their point or two. It's just saying that we're being practical in terms of how we're dealing with the situation and we're putting some kind of limitation on, some kind of practical limitation on the use of these public funds and that's all it's about. There has to be a certain minimum level of support from friends and people who believe in what you're doing in order to be a viable candidate and that's all this amendment does, all that aspect does.