

financing of campaigns, so this bill was passed. And there have been attempts, since that time, to amend it, to change it, to try to make it more palatable, but nothing has succeeded in my view for doing that, because the whole concept of using public funding for campaign finance reform, to me, is not the solution, it's the wrong solution. So Senator Bernard-Stevens offered an amendment to strike all of that from the beginning, essentially wipe the slate clean. And I want to continue discussing what can be done, but I also don't want to just put something in there just so we have...we can all tell people that we had some kind of campaign finance reform. I'm getting tired of us having grand names for what we're doing here without actually backing it up with anything that makes sense. And Senator Bernard-Stevens offered this amendment on a day when I was not here this year. And I have...I'm sure anyone who's worked with me is aware that I had offered this amendment last year on a bill of Senator Beutler's that did not come up, that died at the end of session. So we never had an opportunity to vote on my amendment last year. And when Senator Bernard-Stevens offered this amendment this year I was not here that day. And I certainly would have voted for it and spoken in support of it and done all I could to assure that people were here who were in favor of this, because I know...I know from talking to people and I feel that this is a majority opinion on this floor, that we do have the votes there to get this amendment passed. And I think it was just the timing the day that it was offered, people who were off the floor at the time, or people who were not even here that day that wanted to vote for it, that couldn't vote for it. So what I'm asking for now is for you to reconsider and to give us another opportunity to vote for the Bernard-Stevens amendment. If it doesn't come up again this year, it will come up early next year, before the next election cycle, when a lot of this will kick in. And the possibility of a lot of high dollar campaigns next year may not be there, except the legislative campaigns, everybody has to understand some of these campaigns have been spending close to \$100,000, so that's a considerable amount of public financing that would go in if an individual in those campaigns spends over, I think it's 50,000 for a legislative campaign. So the possibility of a good number of public funds is there. And then the other half of the problem is we have never funded this. We have never found a really good source of funding. Some have been...Senator Beutler has attempted to bring some forward, at least suggesting, although I have disagreed and I know he knows that, with his suggestions, but at least attempting to finance