

it. But myself I disagree with the whole concept. But at least individuals who have traditionally supported this, like Senator Beutler, he has brought forth an idea on what to use. I think he was taxing campaign funds was one of the ideas. At least he's attempted to, but has never found something that the majority of people want to vote for. So this thing sits kind of just there. It will be a factor in the next round of campaigns. We don't have financing for it. We haven't...we haven't really attempted to, I don't think, feel out the majority of the people here since its passage. And there was a change, a big change in the Legislature. And I think if we get a chance to have the majority of people on the floor and consider striking the original sections and all amendments I feel it will be successful. So I'm asking you this morning to vote for this motion to reconsider, just to align the opportunity, at some point, if not this year, the beginning of next year, to have another vote on the Bernard-Stevens amendment and to strike that public financing and that so called campaign finance reform that I don't feel ever was campaign finance reform, and really hope that the Government Committee continues to, and Senator Beutler and others who are concerned about this issue, to bring forth ideas to deal with it. But this one just isn't it, and I hope you'll give me the opportunity to vote to reconsider and to eventually vote for striking this reform that was passed several years ago and the amendments that have followed. And I'm asking this morning for you to do that, and that will be as far as the bill will go this morning. We won't go to the amendment, we won't go to the bill, we'll just vote on the motion to reconsider this morning. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. You've heard the opening. For discussion on the motion to reconsider, Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Again, I guess for the record, I did not ask anybody to reconsider the motion...the amendment that I had on 528 (sic) last week. There were 36 people here and I...I think the amendment got 17 votes or something along that line. And I suspect if everyone would have been here the amendment would have passed. But I also want to make clear what this motion does and what it doesn't do, where my position is on that, if at all possible. Number one, as Senator Beutler knows, I have always...I have not supported the campaign finance law simply because we never funded it. And I always said it was a hoax on