

suspect, and rightfully so, certainly if I ever carry the bill 528 (sic), if 528 (sic), this bill Senator Beutler has, if he can't find the funding, the compromises he's going to...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...try to work on all fail, and my amendment then gets attached on, I'm sure Senator Beutler then would withdraw the bill from consideration from the Legislature, which would be his prerogative to do. So no votes taken today are going to end campaign financing the way we do it this year, even if the amendment is agreed to. It would, however, set the tone. It would set the tone for next session that the Legislature is not going to fund it, therefore we're going to get rid of it. So in conclusion I'd like to kind of clarify so we don't get too far astray on this debate on the reconsideration. This vote simply will say that when 528 (sic) comes up, with all of the things that we'll be talking about, the amendment that will eliminate the campaign financing, if there is not funding available, will have the option of coming up for discussion as well. And I hope that clarifies for the body as best...at least that I can do on a Wednesday morning. So I appreciate the time and thank you, Senator Witek.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Beutler, on the motion to reconsider.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, obviously I'm adamantly opposed to this particular amendment. And let me suggest to you three reasons why we're spinning our wheels and wasting our time this morning. Reasons that have actually been suggested to you by Bernard-Stevens, however he was polite enough not to state them in quite the way that I'm going to state them to you right now. The reasons that we're wasting our time is because, one, the bill is on General File and may not advance to Select. If it doesn't advance to Select, you don't have to worry about anything having to do with killing the Campaign Finance Reform Act. So there's no point to dealing with this, at this particular point in time. Secondly, if we're able to resolve the funding problem and to resolve the problems and advance it to Select File, the Bernard-Stevens amendment can be offered again on Select File. There is no prohibition on offering the same amendment at different stages of debate, so it can be offered again at that particular point in time if Senator Witek is not satisfied that the bill in its form on Select File