

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and I hope you will remember that this bill doesn't involve just the limitation on campaign expenditures, but it also involves a limitation on PAC expenditures. And if you don't think the public is in support of a limitation on PAC expenditures, I can tell you, you're absolutely wrong on that one. And I also think that Senator Witek is wrong on public financing, because every...anybody I've ever explained this mechanism to, any citizen that I've ever...that's ever understood the mechanism in this bill has said to me that's worth a try, has said to me that's worth a try. And I don't give a bit of weight to a general public opinion out there that's against public financing, that is substantial and real. But when you ask them, one, do they want to tax candidate committees; or, two, do they want to try this experiment, structured the way it is, I submit to you to submit yourself to the experiment with your constituents. Sit down and explain to somebody...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...how this works, and you will see they will not disapprove. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to the Witek motion as well. I want to work through this in terms of a series of questions and answers and try to lead to the conclusion that I think we, too, should oppose the motion to reconsider and try and find a way to address this problem. First off, the question we need to ask ourselves, is campaign financing a problem? And I think all of us, if we're fair and honest about it, would have to answer there is a problem. Currently today there's an outrageous amount of money spent on campaigns, whether they be for Legislature, or Governor, or U.S. Senate, or Congress, or most any office, including the state offices which now are starting to be quite expensive to run for in terms of constitutional offices. It's come to the point where the first question asked, if somebody is thinking about running for office, isn't what kind of leadership skills do you have, what experience do you have, what positions on issues do you have. The question of