

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR WITEK: ...the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. Well, about all that can be said probably has been said, but I'd like to make a few more points. And I have great respect for Senator Beutler. I wanted to start out with that. I know that the intention was to put some kind of a lid on spending, and I think that's meritorious, but there is only one way we can do it, obviously, or at least only one way that the proponents of this bill seem to think there is the way to go. But, you know, and I can't remember which senator said when they explained it, why, everybody said, oh, that's a wonderful thing to do, that's a marvelous thing to do. When I explain it to constituents, and I tell them that the person who is going to raise more than that lid limit, then we, the taxpayers, have to pick up the tab for the other person no matter what that is, and in the quick survey around here, four of us could have put \$120,000 safely home out of the coffers and to candidates, in fact, for a candidate's alm. Now when I tell that to my constituents, they are not happy about this bill. They are not happy about picking up the tab for a candidate. They don't like this idea, and I will tell you there is still going to be those who can raise the money and this is not going to stop them. And those who can't will get taxpayer dollars. So a rose is a rose is a rose, even when it's in a petunia patch, Senator Wesely, and you can call this a limitation on campaign spending bill, but it really is, and it's proved by the fact that we cannot get funding for this bill, the real issue is because it is a public funding for a campaign bill, not limitation on campaign spending. We can continue to work at trying to find something that the courts will allow, but I don't think taxpayer dollars and public funding is what my constituents want. So I appreciate the opportunity to reconsider Bernard-Stevens motion. I did vote for it, and if he, indeed, keeps it for the last gasp on General File, then that's a good idea maybe, that after we have tried all of the other amendments that Bernard-Stevens will be able again to present this motion, and so I plan to support the motion to reconsider.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. I would like to