

appropriations phase...well, I'll make a point at the appropriations phase of updating you, at least from my perspective, as to what I think's happening, whether or not we need more funds as security for the act. With that I will stop and before withdrawing or asking for the passing over of the bill, afford anyone else who so chooses an opportunity to speak.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek, you are recognized, followed by Senator Preister.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President, members of the body, thank you for the opportunity, Senator Beutler, to address this bill once more and I hope that it isn't a prolonged discussion this morning. And I didn't get to hear all of your opening remarks, but my impression is that, that you intend, if necessary, later to come back and ask the Appropriations Committee for an additional sum of money if it looks as if there are candidates who are not going to abide and drive up the cost of this. And since I believe March 1 is the filing deadline, then that would give plenty of time to address the problem if there is a problem. I, too, have been supportive of this act for a number of years and I am encouraged by the number of signatures and people pledging, incumbents pledging to support this. And I guess I think maybe you were right all along, maybe, maybe it won't take a lot of money to fund this but we really won't know that for a little while. And as a candidate, I guess I don't want to be caught in the position where I'm very vulnerable and agree to abide and then the state cannot uphold its part of the contract. So I guess I would be very supportive of your efforts if later on it becomes necessary to get that General Fund money, or the other alternative is, and I think we could always come back and do this. We could add a clause in here, if people aren't willing to fund it, we could add a clause and say if that time comes and the money isn't there, then the parties to the contract no longer are bound by the contract because I really don't know how you can bind somebody to continue abiding when, when the terms of the contract are no longer applicable. So that's really all I wanted to say. I think it is a positive thing. I think it was smart that we, we held this, this bill over, delayed it until this year because it's, it's a campaign on a smaller scale. We can see how it works this year, whether it would work in the statewide elections in two years from now which will involve the governor's race and the five other constitutional offices and it will give us a better idea of how