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inadequate to satisfy the demands made upon it in accordance with the law. There's going to have to be an answer to that issue. The act already has demonstrated a real propensity toward unintended consequences that complicate our lives. Even with all of the forms and affidavits already required under the act, recent elections have proven it's difficult to effectuate its intent. Adding more layers of complexity will not help, but will only leave candidates even more unsure as to how to proceed. You know, Arizona, similar problems have ensued. One commentator stated it is ironic that a law intended to make running for office more accessible has, instead, made campaigning a regulatory nightmare. That's the same as it is in Nebraska. I would note from recent evidence that the act has not resulted in an increase in candidates for the Legislature. We're about to find out when, through term...this is something we imposed on ourselves before most of us got here. But when the term limits, that the people have imposed upon us and I think upon themselves, take effect and you take half of the body out of here in two years, it will be interesting to see how...how many people run and how virtuous this all is. At the end of the day, there's simply no evidence that the act has had a positive impact. If spending is down, it's because incumbents are only occasionally facing serious challenges. In 2002, there were 28 legislative races on the ballot. In 12 of 28, the incumbent was unopposed. In 10 of 16 contested races in 2002, the winner prevailed by 2,000 votes or more in districts with about 35,000 residents. Respectfully, that's not a closely contested race. In 2000, the figures were similar: 11 incumbents were unopposed in 26 races; 8 of 15 supposedly contested races weren't close enough to even be called competitive. What are we protecting against? In other words, the great majority of candidates had no need to spend any significant money. There were only a handful of races each year in which campaign spending could make any real difference at all. In virtually every case in which the act might have mattered, it was rendered meaningless.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Except, of course, for the single instance of \$125,000 that we've talked about, and between its loopholes,