

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 27, 2004 LB 762

SENATOR BEUTLER: But in the case of Suttle versus Friend, once again, the incumbent was held down to a reasonable amount, which allowed a nonincumbent, who is much less funded, to win. Stuthman versus Robak, same situation--an incumbent was held to the limitation and one who had fewer resources, greater name recognition, I think, in that case, but still I would argue and submit that the Campaign Finance Act worked well in that case. It allowed somebody with less resources to get their voice out there in relatively...with relatively equal volume without being overwhelmed by money. Those are four examples I would give you. It's been a great thing for the Legislature. We haven't...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...bought our way into this office.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I rise in support of LB 762. I rise in opposition to the bracket motion. This has been addressed in some detail by both sides, so I don't have anything that is not probably redundant for me to say, so I would offer the balance of my time to Senator Brashear.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Brashear, you have 4 minutes and 34 seconds.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Thank you, Senator Tyson. I won't...I won't take the time given to me. I appreciate the opportunity. I...you know, we're probably not going to change a lot of minds. I guess what we've established here...we'll see where we go. What we've established is the law is broken. I've been more active in attempting to do something decisive about it than I think anybody else. I'm not certain the law can ever be fixed. So the issue is, do we want to just keep doing what we're doing, having the appearance of having a Campaign Finance Limitation Act that complicates some people's lives and doesn't complicate other's at all, does that make us feel good? I respectfully suggest that we're engaged in a charade here. No, absent some