

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

January 27, 2004 LB 762

of...different people have come down on different sides of this issue. But again, let us not sell short the reality of the candidacies' creativity to get elected, because I think that that potentially could be an insult to those individuals and I think that's unfair. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Preister, and this will be your third time.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I continue to support the suggestion that we work on this over the interim rather than trying to either eliminate it or whatever other quick changes we may do at this point. And with that, I would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Beutler, you have 4 minutes and 36 seconds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Preister, thank you very much. This is a hard topic for me to talk about, but I want to give you at least my reflections on it, and that's to talk about the Byrd-Kuiper race and what that meant or could mean to us, should mean to us. But before I talk about that race, keep in mind that two years before there was a race involving Regent Ferlic and Rosemary Skrupa, and there's a relationship here, in my mind. In that race, the Regent Skrupa agreed to abide. Dr. Ferlic did not agree to abide, which meant that Regent Skrupa would have access to certain fair fight funds to the extent that he went over the campaign limitation. Well, he filed an estimate that was way up in the \$200,000s, but he didn't spend much of that money. He didn't spend enough of that money to require him to file the affidavit that would have keyed in the flow of public money to Rosemary Skrupa until way at the end. He waited just as long as he could. Then he filed the affidavit and then, after that, he spent a load of money at the last minute. And Skrupa was thinking, sitting there, first of all, philosophically not liking to spend much money at all, hers or her friends' or anybody's, or public money, and she didn't know what was happening. She didn't know if he was going to spend all the way up to that estimate. So, instead of taking all of the public funds she was entitled to, she took only a