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SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of the Beutler amendment. I believe that we need a systematic, more objective approach in the broader issues that I believe this amendment addresses. It's bothered me for quite some time that there are various groups that proclaim to be above reproach in terms of ethics. And because we don't have, I believe, a more systematic approach to the issue, by default these outside groups are termed to be the know-all on legislative ethics. I've seen the shots that they've taken at members of this body. I think it's unfair. I think it's unreasonable. And that's why I support Senator Beutler's objective and the intent behind AM1702. I haven't always thought that. But the more I see the disjointed outside efforts of finger-pointing, I think that this is a better approach. And I appreciate Senator Beutler's efforts in this direction. And I hope that you'll join me in supporting the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm going to oppose at this time. Maybe I'll change my mind over time, Senator Beutler. It is kind of...hitting me kind of cold. I actually didn't realize it was in the Exec Board. But I don't know that we have an ethics problem. Now, Senator Smith puts a little different spin on it. Maybe outside influences are making a difference. I have not felt in the 20 years here, 19 years, that we've had an ethics problem within the body. Now, it does bother me sometimes that we are defined outside as having a problem. And it bothers me even more because many times it's just one person whose standards we don't meet and has a comment. They get a lot of publicity. To my knowledge, there's not resolutions in that particular organization. There's not standards set that all of us would be able to look at, or the public could look at. But when there's an ethics issue raised, quote, there's...seems like there's one person responding. That's not a personal shot at all. But it seems like that it meets the standards. I think there might be 49 different standards in here sometimes in the things that we do. Each one of us has our own set. We try to do the best that we