

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

February 15, 2006 LB 188

never had a Governor's race that has been under the Campaign Finance Limitation Act. And I realize Governors' races are a lot different than, perhaps they are at the Regents level or the State Board of Education level or the legislative level. I really firmly feel that it's worked very well for us so far. And I'm going to give the rest of my time to Senator Beutler after I make one more observation. And I'm sure it may be on the minds of a number of people in here. But in light of what is going on at the national level, and all the turmoil over campaign finance, I think it would be the very, very worst time for the Nebraska Legislature to turn their back on this law that we have had in place now for, I believe Senator Beutler said five elections. I've been through three of those myself. I think we ought to make it better and not make it worse. So with that, I would like to yield the rest of my time to Senator Beutler, if I might.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, about 1, 52.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schimek, thank you. With all due respect, Senator Brashear, let's get rid of this argument about favoring incumbents. That's historically nonsense. Everybody in this room who's been alive for a while knows that the reason why campaign finance has come around all around the country, national level, everywhere, is because incumbents have an enormous advantage, enormous advantage. You and I, if we get involved in a legislative race, we go out, we raise a certain amount of money. If we don't have any opponent, we don't raise any more. If we get a dud for an opponent, we probably raise a little bit more. If we get somebody that's really troublesome, we can go out and raise about as much money as we think we need to beat them.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's the way the old system worked. Incumbents always had the advantage. Under this system, an incumbent may sometimes have the advantage. But on the other hand, it may be the challenger that has the advantage. We don't try to change what you bring onto the playing field. You may bring onto the playing field a great reputation, in which case