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SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. I think it's pretty clear that I've been probably labeled, at least by myself sometimes, as the master of the obvious. So let me continue to try to live up to that moniker, if...even if it's my own, let me try to live up to that. We've heard a lot of things, and I think, speak to in regard to Senator Beutler's bill, Senator Beutler's amendment, and even further, to Senator Brashear's potential solutions to ongoing problems that we not only have in this state, but have across our nation. One of the things that occurs to me, or at least it seems like the discussion has gone in a couple of different directions...blowing away this Campaign Finance Limitation Act could perpetuate, could potentially perpetuate bad behavior, or at the very least, at the very least it's going to remove key, important checks and balances in regard to political behavior. Now I've also heard, at least this is the impression that I'm getting, that keeping these limitations in place, possibly even enhancing them, making them better, which is exactly what I think Senator Beutler is trying to do--no doubt about that--making them better would perpetuate good behavior, or at the very least, could provide an added check and an overall additional balance to political behavior. My question would be this: Why? Why would we think that? Here's the obvious. Some people are just flat-out fraudulent. Some people are just flat-out corrupt. Some people are just mean. Some people are unethical. Some are immoral. They just have no character. Nothing we do here, if we do it in the next 45 minutes, is going to change that. Here's my point. I do believe this is a freedom of speech issue. I do believe that we can address that in regard to this subject. But how we address it is the important thing, and it's been brought up here twice, and I think it's going to be brought up again. Full disclosure, solid, in my opinion--and I haven't heard it yet, but I have a feeling I'm going to, because I'm stealing it from somebody--caps. I can't run into a crowded theater and...you know, I have First Amendment rights. I can't run into a crowded