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the opportunity to discuss it thoroughly. I thank you for your time and your consideration. I urge the adoption of my amendment, the repeal of the law. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brashear. On with discussion. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Smith, Brown, and Chambers. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I suspect that he didn't like the bill. (Laughter) No, I don't mean to diminish Senator Brashear's arguments. Obviously, he feels very passionately. Obviously, he's very honest about what he's saying. Obviously, there are two sides to this argument. But I don't believe for a minute any of his four reasons. First of all, keep in mind that Senator Brashear himself has filed lawsuits against this act and never has it been declared unconstitutional and never has he pursued it to appeals courts and pushed the question of whether it's constitutional. And I suggest that the reason he has not done that is because it's not unconstitutional. It is voluntary. Anybody that feels like they need to spend more money to go out and campaign and get their message out, they can do it. They can do it. They have done it. They do do it. And that's what's so good about this law. It's not like it has to be public financing. It's not like you are really limited. You're not trying to put an absolute limit on expenditures. You can choose to go out and spend more money. But I disagree with him strongly with regard to the fact that you ought not to be able to buy an election, period. It ought to be a fair fight. There's nothing more important than an election and there's nothing more important than both sides being able to go out and make their point. If you're at the tail end of an election and somebody spends \$100,000 and you have \$10 left, you're not going to get your speech out there. No speech is not free speech. Free speech is when both sides have the resources to make their point. And I'm very proud of the fact that nobody in this Legislature since the mid-1990s has bought their way into this Legislature. They really haven't. It's been a series of fair fights and I think we should be very proud of that. And I think that means a lot. It means a lot to the people of the state. Editorials across the state have supported this law. Does it have flaws? Are those flaws being fixed? It does have flaws.