

introducers of that resolution. Senator Chambers has introduced another study which calls for a general look at the statute of limitations by the Judiciary Committee during the interim. With these two studies we can find out both what is fair to the general public in the area of statutes of limitations, not only relative to products liability but in another number of areas. We can bring the insurance companies and others before us and find out what is actually occurring. I have been looking at this bill from the start of the session and I have talked to a number of people and not even one of the proponents of this bill has been able to tell me how it will affect the insurance rates, and no one has told me that the insurance rates are going to decline as a result of this bill. I think that we need to do something to help these manufacturers and these other people out, but lets do something positive, lets know what we are doing and after these studies I think we can pass a bill, perhaps next year, that would be fair and really accomplish what we want to accomplish.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. I rise to oppose the bracketing of this bill. Last year when we considered malpractice, sure we could have held it off for another year to study it for another year, would that have helped anybody? Not at all. Senator Cullan says that he feels sorry for the people who are stuck with these high premiums. I don't think that he does at all, because if he did he'd want to act now. Why wait till next year or the following years. A good way to put off a bill and not act is to have a study on it. We all know that. It is one way to do away with things, get it out of our hair. It is like sticking your hair and head, Senator Cullan, in the mud. Or in the sand, so you would think that it would just go away, it won't do it. We hear that nothing has been said to guarantee that the premiums of insurance will be reduced. Nobody is going to say that they will reduce premiums when we studied malpractice, nobody absolutely nobody would say that we will guarantee and put my name on the line that this will reduce insurance premiums for malpractice. They won't do it. They know that they can't do it. If you should be deluged with a large number of claims potentially or in reality that turn out to be judgments you can not say that we will guarantee. So, we can't do this. But, the likelihood is that it would reduce premiums, somewhat at least. I don't know what the premium problem is in Omaha, except for the few letters that I have received from various manufacturers. We don't have much manufacturing in my area, very few in numbers, but they have certainly been letting me know that the large increases that they have been receiving in products liability are unbearable, a few of them, not many maybe one, two or three will be forced out of production because of these high premiums. When you jump from one thousand, two thousand to some forty to seventy thousand for this premium, a small manufacturer can't do it. I think that probably somebody like Senator Barnett would experience such an increase it may cramp them to the place where they couldn't continue on either. The experience in Nebraska has not been all that bad but across the country it has been and insurance companies actuarially figure out how much it will cost from the losses, and if we