

5 of them had lost work time that there was compensation for. The total amount of money that was compensated last year for hearing loss was \$1,863.00. I think we can fairly say then that there was perhaps not a single case of total hearing loss last year. It is a statistically very infrequent circumstance. However, Nebraska law is very unfair, and we have to prepare that law to deal with those cases that do occur on an infrequent basis, and therefore, although the fiscal impact of this change is absolutely minute, it is one that we should make in all fairness and good equity and represents a substantial change in the nature of the bill. I would suggest to those of you who see that 358 is a fearful mechanism, something that is a great increase in workman's comp... the amendment that is being offered here is a very fair one and represents a genuine attempt to solve a problem that has been brought to our attention in the hearing room, and to which everyone agreed some need for action was prevalent. The testimony was clear across the board with respect to hearing the Nebraska Workmen's Comp Court law should change.

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: I urge your support for the change to the amendment suggested by Senator Brennan allowing total disability for those people who lose hearing in both ears. I just want to close with a statement that was brought out in the Government and Military Affairs Committee on the Commission for the Deaf, which was brought to us by Senator Labedz. The people who spoke to us very, very convincingly and emotionally on that occasion said, that they went back to the example of Helen Keller, who was asked which of her two disabilities, blindness or deafness, she found to be the greatest impediment to leading a full life. She said that hearing was the greater of the two impediments...that if she had to choose, she would rather be blind than be deaf. I hope that you will support Senator Brennan on this amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I did not support the amended version as you see by the Committee report, Senator Kahle and I did not vote for this bill, but now I think this is a reasonable compromise, as was stated that this is quite a trauma for a person to lose hearing in both ears, and so I would