

without cost of living escalators, they indefinitely depreciate and decline. This is a mechanism used elsewhere in the statutes. It will simply say, let's preserve the cap where it is and if we're going to change the cap we'll make a knowing and intelligent decision to change it, we're not going to let time take its toll and wind up 19 years from now when the dollar may once again be worth 31 cents of what it is today. It's a simple amendment. It keeps faith with Senator Hannibal's amendment. It's sort of a show or tell amendment for Senator Hannibal. If he made it a million dollars, all right, let's do it at a million dollars but let's play by the rules of the game, let's keep it honest, let's make sure a million dollars continues to be a million dollars on into the future. I'd ask the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Chairman and members, I would urge that you vote against the amendment. What Senator Hoagland is offering you is a cost of living increase for tort claims and if you wish to do that I suppose that's all right, but we're here for the reason of making laws for the State of Nebraska. And what I would recommend that better public policy is that if \$1 million and \$5 million at some time in the future is deemed by the future body of the Legislature to be an unreasonably low cap on the limits that were set by this body in LB 14, that we come in here and the 49 of us forthrightly and by a majority vote through due process, raise that limit to whatever amount you want. And if we want to look back in history and say, well \$1 million in 1986 is the same as \$17 million is today, let's raise that cap to \$17 million, then so be it. But to suggest that we put a cost of living increase on legal liability limits, to me is not only bad public policy, but it's just kind of a dereliction of our duty as a Legislature and I would urge that you vote against the amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I do oppose this particular amendment. Senator Conway sitting here a few minutes ago said, well, what does the previous amendment do, the one we just voted on? And I said, well, let me simplify it. It's trial attorneys versus municipalities and then he said, well, whose turn is it to win this time? The point I make