

won't be negligent and careless. Unfortunately, this bill doesn't provide it. It says that a person who has no such knowledge can go and volunteer and be a coach, do so with impunity for negligent or careless conduct and not know what they are doing out there. I don't think that is the message that we want to send to the people of our state and I don't think that's the kind of thing that we want to condone or encourage. I would urge that you not advance this bill, particularly for the reason that there will be...there are many amendments that are necessary for it. And so I hope that we keep it on General file. There is no need...no reason to advance it. It needs a lot of work and a lot of consideration, it it's ever going to pass in any type of form that would at least do away with the problems that are going to occur because, I can tell you, if this bill passes and is signed, in two to three years we are going to have a number of victims coming into this Legislature and saying, look, my child had serious, serious injuries because some coach was careless, because they were negligent, because they did not know what they were doing and they were encouraged to volunteer because they were immune from prosecution under this bill that has passed. I don't think that's what we want to happen. And we are all going to look at ourselves and say, why in the devil did we vote to advance this bill? We didn't realize the kind of harm that's going to occur. We didn't realize that these young people would suffer these serious injuries and not have any type of compensation for it. We didn't realize that we were going to promote volunteer coaches, who had no knowledge of what they were doing out there, to volunteer to coach on the condition that they be immune for their negligent and careless conduct. I would urge you not to advance the bill. I think it needs a lot of work and I hope that you will vote against advancement. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Ashford. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Those in favor of ceasing will please vote aye, opposed nay. Shall debate cease? Shall debate now close? Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate has now ceased. Senator Firsch, would you care to close?

SENATOR FIRSCH: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill addresses nonprofit sports programs and those volunteer coaches, referees and umpires that participate in those programs. Some