

while waiting. For example, for cornea eye plants there are 4,000 people waiting today. Or 8,000 people waiting for kidney transplants. So the list goes on and on. Might I tell you, too, that we started working on this bill when I got back about in September. We did check other states and their legislation, the federal legislation. I'll give you a short list of the ones that did work on this. The Lions Eye Bank, the National Kidney Foundation, the Junior League in Omaha, their 1,600 members have chosen this legislation as their priority legislation this year. They feel that it is very important to them. The Nebraska Hospital Association, the Red Cross, the Nebraska Organ Retrieval Service, Nebraska Medical College, several practicing physicians, Heart Association and the Lung Association. Might I also tell you that in the presenting in the bill to the committee we only had any opposition, and that was not...that was more concerns than opposition, was from the Catholic Conference. I think the letter is out here explaining to the body what maybe their questions are. I want to tell you nothing is mandatory in this bill or it is very, very lenient. It is just a way of educating the doctors or the hospital personnel to ask. I see the bill would help save other lives, and we are all probably a product of modern medicine. It is unfortunate that the timing has to occur at such crucial time and minutes to retrieve these organs. But I don't know of any other way that it could possibly happen or could be handled. The hospitals have to ask according to protocol. Protocol has a list of exceptions that you don't have to ask, therefore, discretion is the key. And, also the hospitals do need uniformity in standard rules. As one gentleman, U.S. magistrate said, never once have I had anyone regret that they gave permission or were asked, but I've had many regret that they were not asked. That is about it. At the Nebraska Medical Center there are 39 people on the list right now waiting for transplants, 38 liver and 1 pancreas. Also I might say of the 71 transplants this year, at the university, liver transplants, only 16 of those...not the liver, the kidney, only 16 of those have come from Nebraska. So we are receiving transplants from other states. With that, I will close. If there are any other questions, I will be glad to answer them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Nelson. An amendment on the desk. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the bill. (Chambers amendment appears on pages 1434-35 of the Legislative Journal.)