

SPEAKER BAACK: Excuse me, about three minutes.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you. And the reason I ask is we're limited on the number of times I can speak on an amendment when I use my own light. So, senators, like Senator Abboud, even though we may be on the other side, share back and forth. Senator Abboud, the reason that economic-noneconomic comes into play here is not because it becomes a bargaining chip, it's because of policy. And the policy is this, when we go away from slight gross you've opened up that small window of people who were never liable before. That's where these small percentages of people, I don't know what percentage slight is. Slight could be 1 percent, could be 6 percent, it might even be 10 percent. But there...since we're moving from slight to a system of determining and giving that a number, you now have people who are going to be included more. The economic-noneconomic is my attempt to try to protect those individuals with the small percentages of liability and to give them some balance, protection, whatever you want to call it, from paying the entire bill when they're a small percent of liable. That is the purpose of this. If we didn't change slight gross, wouldn't have economic-noneconomic, and I'd say we'd go along as we are. I happen to think, as you and Senator Ashford, that juries don't do slight gross. I've got the slight gross jury instruction here, and if I get some time, I'm going to read that, about how confusing that really is, because it is. I agree with you. We go to comparative fault, if we do that, will 88 work? Yeah. Will it work better in my amendment and my terms and policy? Yes. You'd like to speak, I'll give you the rest of your time back.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Abboud, you have approximately one minute.

SENATOR ABBODD: Okay. Well, Senator Kristensen, I appreciate that explanation. But the way I look at this particular proposal is we're talking about either changing the law or not changing the law. And I think we've started to see some of the laundry list that comes with...when we discuss the term tort reform. Senator Coordsen's amendment was a part of 425, changes...this particular amendment was also part of that particular package. And, to me, either we're going to change the law dealing with slight gross, go to a comparative standard as all the other states have in the nation, or we're going to talk about some of the changes that need to be dealing with tort