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Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, I have had an unusual number of inquiries from members concerning the purpose and the need for this bill. Those inquiries have come mostly from newer members who are still reading the legislation before us, but they've also come from senior members. And so I have prepared a thoughtful opening that will explain the purpose and need of the bill. Shortly, we will debate LB 839, which I anticipate will be a serious discussion of the pay gap between district court and county court judges. Today, however, now I would like to bring to your attention that we have an appreciation gap between county court judges and district court judges. Nebraska has a District Court Judges Association created by statute, it has a County Court Judges Association that is not. Both groups have annual meetings. Both groups engage in continuing legal education. Both groups occasionally, only very occasionally, play golf at outings. Both groups hire lobbyists primarily to instruct members to limit their testimony before the Judiciary Committee to three minutes, and we do mean three minutes. The difference is that the district...one is statutory, one is not. Although yet...we have yet to define and divine the exact and precise need for this association, you can appreciate and understand that the county court judges feel underappreciated. This is a matter of parity and equity and equality. This bill was a consent calendar bill last session, which, as most of you know, is why it is back before you this session. A public hearing was held January 29. There was no opposition. All the testimony presented was presented within appropriate time limitations. The bill was advanced to General File unanimously. There is no fiscal impact. There is no A bill. There is no opportunity, at least on this bill, for Senator Wehrbein to offer dire warnings that there is a day of reckoning. There is no committee amendment. I urge the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. For discussion on the advancement of LB 315, the Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I was one of the ones who asked the questions. I also went outside and asked representatives in this situation,