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LB 498

go to the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Jensen, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments to LB 498. (See Standing Committee amendment, AM0343, on page 616 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. The committee amendment, which was brought by the trial attorneys, removes healthcare professionals from the liability and use provisions of the bill, and limits the bill to layperson users of the automatic defibrillators. The amendment was brought, actually, by Senator Wickersham, and adopted by the committee on a unanimous vote. I would urge adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. On the committee amendments, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Wickersham, if you would yield, just a couple of questions. And I would start out by saying I think this is a great bill, and I appreciate the fact that you're equipping the good Samaritans so that they can operate even more...use their good intentions even more efficiently. The reason I should probably just have the discussion now though is because I want to understand a little better the liability provision. And under the committee amendment, as I understand it, healthcare professionals would continue to be liable under the current standards.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Um-hum.

SENATOR BEUTLER: What I'm not very knowledgeable about is the extent to which healthcare professionals are involved in emergency services currently, and in particularly whether healthcare professionals generally are a part of the emergency team that goes out and would try to revive a person like this or not? The question I'm getting to is this, ultimately, I don't want people to start substituting persons who are not healthcare professionals to accomplish this task, for the reason that they will have an advantage as far as liability is concerned. And perhaps that wouldn't be the case, because I don't know the way these emergency teams are structured. But, if you understand