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April 16, 2003 LB 23, 146

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And there is no intent directly or indirectly through the enactment of this legislation to try to influence the court in any way or tilt it toward upholding the existing law. That is not the purpose of what we're doing here today, is it?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Absolutely not. That would be improper and that's not what we're doing. The record will reflect that LB...what was originally LB 23, a bill introduced by me, is the portion that contained the cap and the increase in the cap, and I have been working on this project for I believe six years and this is just another version of that. There were negotiations of the kind and type and among the parties who have an interest, and that's why, if you notice with regard to the committee statement which was put forth on LB 23, that the Nebraska Medical Association and the Nebraska Hospital Association appeared in support of the LB 23 and the Nebraska Association of Trial Attorneys appeared in a neutral capacity.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And, Senator Brashear, now to just touch very briefly on what Senator Aguilar was discussing about increase in malpractice premiums, I'm not aware that that issue was raised at any time when we were discussing this in the committee, or was it? Was it?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, I would never want to say that we discussed something in the committee that...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I mean at the hearing. I m

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...you don't recall,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I mean during the hearing. I'm...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...Senator Chambers, but...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: My memory could fail me, but I don't recall anybody testifying.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: If you'll recall, Mister...you have much to