

Nebraska. Mr. Carman states that the Y knows of at least seven sponsors who withdrew their support because each was fearful of the potential liability associated with this law requirement of collecting and retaining the hold harmless statements. Mr. Carman also pointed out the extra costs associated with complying with the provisions of the law. There is the additional cost involved, of course, in gathering and filing the waivers as well as the costs associated with storing the forms for several years. Mr. Simmons, in his letter, provides further confirmation of the real problems encountered. He states, in no uncertain terms, that until the current sports liability statute is changed, his bank will not sponsor any nonprofit sports activities. As you can see from these letters, there has been a real and present negative impact on Nebraska nonprofit sports programs directly related to the passage of LB 123...or 132 two years ago. It has been shown that the present law has caused businesses which willingly donate money and equipment for the benefit of nonprofit sports to incur additional costs in complying with the law's requirements, as well as subjecting them to additional potential liability. It was my intention, when I introduced LB 594, to make some technical corrections to the law which would, hopefully, alleviate the fears in the business community and thus allow them to continue supporting nonprofit sports. The Judiciary Committee amendment effectively repeals the sports liability statute. In this case, I would support the committee amendment so that Nebraska can once again have a strong and thriving nonprofit sports program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, would you care to discuss the committee amendments?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. President, and members, just briefly. Senator Johnson has given a good summary of what has occurred on this bill. When it was originally passed into the law the intention was to ease some of the stress of liability lawsuits that were being brought or potentially being brought against Little League coaches. And the way the bill is drafted, as Senator Johnson rightly says, there is a potential of creating a new cause of action or a secondary cause of action against sponsors who contribute to Little League sports inasmuch as the failure to obtain the necessary waiver form would potentially, under a fairly...under a fair reading of the law could potentially be turned into a cause of action for failure to get the form against the sponsor. And though that was not