

year. I think Senator Conway and I were extremely concerned with how both sides of this issue viewed it. We were concerned about how the insurance industry was looking at it. We were concerned about how the business community was looking at it, but we were also concerned about how victims were treated under our tort law. And I think everyone was fairly...that looked at the bill would admit to us that, yes, victims in a lot of cases were uncompensated in Nebraska and that we needed to adopt...we needed to adopt a system that would compensate victims and at the same time protect the interest as best we could of all the parties to a legal civil action. And we carved out a compromise which, quite frankly, could not have been written any more fairly than what this compromise...in the way this compromise was written. If a plaintiff was negligent, his or her negligence was deducted from the award that he or she would receive. There is no more...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...fair way that you can write a piece of legislation dealing with the tort law than that way. But I have learned in this case and in the case of the NRA that all that needs to happen is a few letters need to go out giving broad generalizations about the impact of a piece of legislation and then that impact translates into votes against these kinds of measures. Again, I would just say in conclusion that I respect the insurance industry, I respect their views. I know they come from a...their views come from years and years of experience and I certainly respected their views when we forged the compromise, which was LB 1178, and took their views into consideration when we made that compromise. And so I also respect the small business community in this state and I have worked with them on many other measures and will continue to do so. I guess this was just too big a change. I guess this was just too much to ask of this body or of the people of the State of Nebraska. I still believe absolutely, sincerely that it was the only fair way, the best way to deal with this extremely complex problem. Just because lawyers favored it, there was a lot of opposition to it and that's unfortunate, because we, as lawyers,...I know I've practiced law for 15 years and I know how hard it is to get...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...money for victims in Nebraska. It's