

SENATOR BECK: Members of the body...thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the body, I know that you are getting hungry for lunch. If we can do this quickly, it will make it a lot more palatable for everyone. Look at the amendment, it is number two...it has been sent out to you, it is 2692. Again, we go back to the same place, on page 3 on line 6, after homeowner, insert, a member of the homeowner's family or an unpaid volunteer; and in line 7, strike his or her and insert the homeowner's. And so with no further ado, I would ask that we would vote for this amendment because it will help a lot of people, and any of you that have elderly in your little towns and in these older homes that Nebraska is full of, they are not going to be able to comply with it as it stands now, and still we would be well within the EPA regulations. I think we would have Senator Wesely's blessing and I think the Health Department, with whom we have spoken many times and who know about this amendment, would agree, too. And so I would just ask that the body would vote yes for this amendment because it will certainly help a lot of elderly, and as you know in Nebraska, the fastest growing population in this state are those 85 years old and above. So I would just urge you to vote for this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion, Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Hefner.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and members, I do rise in support of the amendment. I understand the Health Department is already essentially providing for this and has allowed some circumstances to proceed in this fashion, so I see no problem in bringing it into statute.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise to support this. Senator Beck talked about older homes and the older people in Omaha. Well, we have those in small towns, too, and I represent a predominately rural area, and in these small towns, there is a lot of elderly that still live in their own homes, and we want to keep them there. And so I think if we can cut down the expense that they would have in some of the removal of this asbestos or different repairs, this would be a great help. I think this amendment is fair. I think it is reasonable and I think we need to adopt it. So, thank you.