

everything, but it is better than nothing. So that is why we did it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any other discussion? Senator Beyer, would you like to close?

SENATOR BEYER: Thank you, Mr. President. Just to urge that we adopt the amendment and then proceed to the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 958. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. Before recognizing Senator Ashford to open on the bill, the Chair is pleased to note that we have some special guests in our south balcony representing all members of this Legislature. We have visiting with us 25 freshmen students at Creighton University from Saitama, Japan, with their teachers from Creighton University and also their teachers from Japan, and their cultural coordinator. Would you people please stand and be recognized by the Nebraska Legislature. Thank you. We are very pleased to have you visiting with us today. Also, Senator Lynch has some guests under our north balcony, Marianne Lynch, his daughter, and friends, Mary Schutt, and Dave Stewart. Would you please stand and be recognized. Thank you. And welcome to the Unicameral. Senator Ashford, would you care to open on the bill?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I am going to defer to Senator Beck for most of the introduction of this bill. She has done a considerable amount of work on it and has made it her priority. For that I am very much appreciative. Just some basic background, or a little background on the bill, this concept was brought to me by Diane Wolf of the Safety and Health Council, Greater Omaha, in the fall of last year, and she has done yeoman work in putting together a coalition in support of LB 958, which is really phenomenal and very impressive. It includes most of the major health insurance companies in Nebraska, the education groups, the medical groups, all of the medical groups in the state, the Bar Association, many businesses in Omaha and across the state, and it is really an