

negligent in failing to take into account the tragedies that occurred in individuals' lives because the laws were so carefully crafted to hurt individuals within the state. This year the Legislature made a monumental decision in saying they would take the path chosen by the other 49 states of this country. And, when they chose that path they said to the people of the state that, yes, we need to make some changes, not radical changes, but changes that will help individuals throughout this state to be fairly compensated for injury. I think it is unfortunate that sometimes after you make a large step like this that some groups can't leave well enough alone. I mean, I can understand bringing in a bill next year to make changes in the law. I can see waiting a couple of years as we normally do and say, "Well the law just hasn't worked." If the law didn't work after a couple of years, fine, let's make some changes, let's fine tune it. But I see this amendment and what this says to me is that we are not going to even be given an opportunity to see whether the law that we passed a few months ago will work. I am astounded, I am totally astounded that we came here with three days left in the session with a large major technical amendment on a major issue. I am astounded that it came up and I am astounded that we are going to be even considering it. The amendment, in my view, is a terrible amendment. Possibly it could be fine tuned to where both parties would be happy, but we are not given that opportunity. This bill comes before us with an amendment that says, "take it or leave it". If we debate the bill, if we amend the bill, the bill is pulled off the agenda. Now if we waited decades to make a change in our comparative negligence, I don't think fifteen minutes or a half an hour would give legitimate justice to this monumental of a debate. I'd like to take time to go through part by part, section by section to point out where the flaws are in this amendment, but then I'd be over the time limit. I'll tell you sometimes it is frustrating. I guess, I guess they feel that the law that we passed was a bad bill and they feel that it is such a bad bill that we should make the changes before it even goes into effect in August. I don't share that belief. I don't think the majorities of this body share that belief and it is unfortunate that this bill has to come up three days before the...for the bill, if it was so darn important, it should have been prioritized by a senator...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...it would come up on its regular ordered