

time. But no one in this body felt that it was significant enough to do that, so it is chosen as a Speaker priority bill. It wasn't significant enough to come up prior to this time so it came up here with a threat that if we have any sort of discussion, the bill is going to be pulled from the agenda. I will not support this amendment. I will not support this bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Pirsch, followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. I do support this amendment. Actually, it might not even be as...it is not as strong as some of the other amendments that came before it and I think it is a good compromise. I think certain assurances were made when we passed the tort reform early this session and I mean very early. It was pushed through, in my estimation, in a very rapid, too rapid way. Now we have to deal with what that dramatic change in our tort reform is going to mean to our state liability and our subdivision liability. I thank Senator Kristensen for dealing with this. He is an attorney but he has the balance of an attorney that not only represents individuals but also represented a county. Now we have to balance those two things. I have always been in victim assistance and fighting for victims. But there has to be a balance struck when you are looking at our liability and placing fault. In comparative negligence we have to be ever so careful when you consider that someone can be 49 percent at fault and still claim, and be successful, make a successful claim. Naturally the deep pocket is the state and the political subdivisions. So I think we must adopt this amendment, this is not something done in haste or hurry. Senator Kristensen has worked on this a long time and I believe that others on this floor were assured that there would be something done with LB 262 this year if we did pass the significant change in tort reform earlier this year. With that, I think you should adopt this amendment and forward LB 262 to Select File.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Ashford, followed...are there five seconds? Okay, we have a motion to cease debate. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the motion to cease debate? Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Madam President, can I get a call of the house please.