

and again, Senator Hillman, thank you very much.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to add a word or two. As most of you that have been in the body for a while, you know that back three, four years ago or maybe five now, this was my priority bill, was the organ retrieval, and that was in asking in the hospitals when there was someone entered and/or an accident case or something, well trained people to ask that question. It was a difficult bill to get passed because as it is, it is an emotional situation at the time. I want to commend Senator Hillman. This is just one step further and I believe that if you noticed in the news media about two weeks ago or maybe three at this time, maybe the secretary of the organ retrieval association did not know about the legislation when it was passed but there was a very good article in the World-Herald and some of the other papers how Nebraska's donations had experienced a very, very considerable increase in numbers. I know two years ago the Lion's Eye Bank experienced over a 200 percent increase after the original bill was implemented and I believe that if I recall now the figures were something like, I'm not sure, 83 percent increase in tissue donation and donation and the only unfortunate part of this is that young children under the age of 16 do not have a driver's license. I wish that we could think of another system and of course the difficult time if there is an accident or something asking the parents and of course that is where a lot of the big demand is for tissue and organ donations. But I want to commend again, Senator Hillman and those for taking one further step and Nebraska can be very proud from what we've done because of the tremendous increase.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Anyone else wishing to speak to the advancement of LB 1178? Seeing no one, Senator Hillman, do you wish to close?

SENATOR HILLMAN: I would just only again ask the body to seriously think about how the state can become a partner with the private, that we're talking about extending life and would urge the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. We will now vote on the advancement of LB 1178. All those in favor vote aye,