

March 25, 1992 LB 360

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...have been in the work-related injury field. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: I call the question.

SPEAKER BAACK: Do I see five hands? I do. We will now vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. Now we'll go to Senator Will to close.

SENATOR WILL: Mr. Speaker, in closing, I briefly want to address Senator Hefner's concern that I don't view this seriously, don't view this as a major issue because I didn't prioritize the bill. I think if we use that standard for our amendments, we could really speed the session up because there wouldn't be a lot of amendments seriously considered if that was the case. But this is a serious issue. I brought this bill because of a situation that we have in Nebraska where individuals that are suffering from cumulative trauma that, obviously, have had the trauma caused by a work-related activity are in limbo. Sometimes they can recover, sometimes they can't. And I guess maybe the issue is too simple to me, but it seems very simple to me. It's a simple issue of fairness. You have an individual with an injury or a disease. The injury or disease has the characteristics of cumulative trauma, that is that it occurred over a period of time, it developed, it does not have a specific point in time that can be pinpointed when it started, such as is very clear in the case of an accident. But, nonetheless, it exists and it impairs that individual to the point where if you could identify a specific point in time, there would be no doubt that the individual would qualify for worker's compensation. Nonetheless, that disease, that cumulative trauma exists as a result of that individual's employment and that's why we have workers' compensation statutes, ladies and gentlemen. We have those statutes to