

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Abboud. For discussion on the motion to advance, I'm assuming there are no motions filed, Mr. Clerk? Senator Landis, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR LANDIS: I just rise to endorse the measure. One of the provisions I want you to be aware of in this is the ability to withdraw from the interstate commission. It's not like congressionally created compact which when once a state agrees to it, cannot withdraw from its operation. In this case since it is a state created compact and not a congressionally created compact, should we not like the operation of the compact and feel uncomfortable with it, we have the power to withdraw and I think that's a distinguishing characteristic the body ought to be aware of. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I rise too in support of the bill and I rise particularly on the point raised by Senator Landis just now and I want to reiterate and I think for the record indicate, and from Senator Abboud as well when he closes, that if we find any difficulty or any concern we have the power and option to remove ourselves from the compact and that's a critical point because in a sense Nebraska, among the other few states that will be adopting this compact idea are going to be modelling this for the rest of the country and being at the head of the line is always exciting and I think worthwhile. That's how our 50 states come to resolve problems. But should there be unforeseen difficulties, it is on that basis that the law provides us the option to remove ourselves from the compact that gives me a comfort level that we should, in fact, try this experiment and see what happens. As many of you know, I was Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures Task Force in insurance insolvency and we worked very hard there to try and preserve the state's ability to regulate insurance and clearly this is an area ripe for federal preemption as long as the states don't do the job that we need to have done. By the states initiating compacts by trying to find ways to work together to address our common concerns and addressing insurance regulation and insolvency issues, this will keep the federal government off of the issue and allow the states to continue to take the preeminent role in this area of regulation. So I applaud Senator Abboud for bringing the bill forward and Senator Abboud and Senator Landis, and I...the comfort level I have is with if there are any problems we can withdraw from the compact.