

innocent third parties to collect damages. In fact, this bill indicates that it is good public policy that innocent victims receive compensation for their damages. Mr. Speaker, the current Nebraska law is unique in the United States. It makes taxpayers solely liable for damages during any police vehicle pursuit regardless of fault. LB 863 proposes to hold all negligent parties responsible for their share of the costs that arise from a police pursuit while retaining protection for innocent victims. This bill attempts to reduce the cost of pursuit damages to law enforcement agencies by sharing the costs with all other possible sources of payment. The intent of the current statute was targeted to reduce unnecessary pursuits. LB 863 doesn't change that. Nothing in this bill encourages law enforcement to pursue, in a reckless manner, or intentionally put the public at risk. Quite the contrary. I believe that this bill will provide the incentive to law enforcement to develop sound pursuit policies and provide appropriate training which will allow law enforcement to perform their duties better, resulting in safer communities. Mr. Speaker, I will certainly discuss the specifics of the bill if that is the desire of the members. I recognize that individual senators have problems with the concept and some with the drafting. My request this morning is that we allow LB 863 to be placed on General File so that this issue can receive the scrutiny that accompanies full deliberation by the Unicameral. Mr. Speaker, that concludes my opening comments.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator...on the motion to pull the bill from committee, Senator Coordsen, followed by Senators Pedersen and Lindsay.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'm doing something this morning that's a little bit unusual for me and that is that I rise to support the motion to place LB 863 on General File. I think this is an issue that ought to receive the full attention of the Legislature at some point in time in the future in the natural order of events. I am, as many of the rest of you are, a cosponsor of this measure, having in my community or in my district, many, many, many communities that face this on a...not a daily basis but certainly throughout the year on whether or not to pursue as many times not contingent upon the crime but contingent upon the possibility of liability to a community that can't afford any more liability. So I think that it is important to the communities that the law enforcement in Nebraska and the proper ability, flexibility to practice