

situation that the Nebraska Supreme Court handed down just last October,...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...which said that actually an attorney would receive, and a customary amount is one-third of the amount that would be owing to the hospital. I find that to be somewhat of an extreme. The bill does provide that the attorney has a priority, but if we take the \$16 million that the hospitals across Nebraska file in the way of liens, and take that and reduce that by one-third, that is \$5 million less that is going to the hospitals in your communities, hospitals that are already struggling. So this is a remedy I think that can work. I would certainly ask that you would advance the bill to Select File, and I'd be glad to answer any questions, either Senator Wesely or myself. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you very much, Senator Jensen. Senator Vrtiska, your light is next.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'd just take a minute of your time. I have correspondence from hospitals in my area who are obviously small hospitals who certainly are anxious for this piece of legislation to be enacted because of the problem that they have had as has been alluded to by Senator Jensen. I just wanted to add my support to the bill because I think it is very important for some of these hospitals in order to continue because, as many of you know, they do provide a great amount of charity care that they are not ever paid for and to certainly deny them some of these costs that certainly they could be...they are entitled to would certainly be a benefit to the future of those hospitals. With that, I urge your support of this piece of legislation. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Is there anyone else who cares to speak to the issue of advancement to E & R of LB 172? Seeing none, Senator Wesely to close.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. As I indicated to Senator Lindsay, we will be glad to take a look at the amendments he has and Senator Matzke has and to see what we can do to accommodate some of their concerns. Obviously, Senator Jensen and I want to be very cautious in maintaining the