

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Maurstad, would you answer a question for me please?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yes, sir.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: In Senator Lindsay's amendment here, you're not supporting it. Can you tell me again why?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator, I'm not supporting the amendment because I believe that we should have the potential to recover against all responsible parties associated with the damages of an injured innocent victim.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: And this does take out all the other parties?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: I think the...no, but I think taking out the fleeing driver, its absence would be extremely conspicuous. And I believe that when the...when the law is in fact determined, it would be a logical conclusion that the Legislature did not think that recovery against the fleeing driver was appropriate.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Okay. Well, members of the Legislature, this is a bill that I had supported last year and had my name on. And this year, I tried to make a motion to get it out of committee. And all along, and I still do believe, that there's something that can be done, hopefully, that is going to level out these charges and the cost of these innocent parties getting hurt. But by no means do I support in any way, shape, or form, the cutting down of what the innocent party gets in the end, and I don't think they should have to go through a whole lot of extra red tape to get there. I'd also like to see somewhere in here that we're going to do something about doing away with frivolous chases. And I don't know if that's going to be able to be done, but I do support that part of it. And I know there's some people that were very upset with me in helping bring that back to the floor, but I believe there's still something here that can be done and I'm going to be listening very closely to see what can be done. I don't have the expertise in this particular field, but as I read it and stuff, the people do need to have what they got coming to them that they presently get and without jumping through any more hoops than they presently are. And I would hope that there is some way that these costs can be leveled out with the...which was originally the meaning of this bill. Thank you.