

brought to the State Claims Board and then it's brought to the Legislature in the form of either approval or denial of the claim. But there are unusual circumstances in which we can and should consider claims that haven't gone through the claims process. It's certainly acceptable under our statute and it appears in this particular case that this particular court reporter, Gretchen Thomas, had...didn't have the normal process that she could follow in order to be compensated for the time that she should have received from the state of Nebraska and, as a matter of fairness and equity, I'm going to be supporting the amendment to provide this additional compensation to Gretchen Thomas because of the circumstances of her particular case. So I'll be supporting the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when you can have three people trained in the law agreeing unanimously on a point such as this, I think that should let you know that it is a valid point. Here is the way I look at it. This woman was entitled to her vacation time. She had earned it. Because of an arrangement with the judge, she did not take that vacation time at the same time the judge had taken it. However, if she had, they would have had to hire a fill-in court reporter and this money would have been paid. The only problem arose was because she and the judge had arranged for her to take her vacation time at a different time from that of the judge and that was done as a convenience to the court. So it's just a matter of this substitute court reporter having done the work at a time different from when it would have done had she taken her vacation the same time as the judge. So this is money which, in any case under any circumstances, would have been paid. The only way she can be reimbursed is for us to do it in this fashion and I think we ought to do it because her professional reputation and the reputation of the court is at stake. This company that provided the substitute wants to be paid. They did the work. They did it satisfactorily. They're entitled to the compensation. The lady who brought this claim was entitled to her vacation time. She took it, but because of some foul-ups...and I'm not going to point the finger, but I'm not willing to say it was just a breakdown in communication. I think there are some problems in the Court Administrator's Office, but this is a different issue that we're considering here. I'm in support of our paying this claim because it is a