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the state for a young man who was seriously injured, he was 15 years old, injured when he was caught in an elevator and wedged. He lived three years, and subsequently died as a result of those. It was a very difficult three years. It's a sad story also because there is additional damages. The possibility, had this gone to trial, in the judgment of the lawyers, could have been a two to three million dollar case. We've settled it for over seven...a little over \$700,000 plus some interest. And it's our...I believe, our obligation to pay that judgment and that claim. The other four women are, as a result of our liability as a state, at the Regional Centers, that they were women who were sexually assaulted while they were in the custody of the institution, done by individuals who...the state had some liability, knowing that they were perpetrators, and they were not just one isolated instance, they were multiple issues. And those liabilities could have been substantially higher, and in the judgment, as I understand it, that those damages could have been substantially higher, and there were settlements made and approved in all the cases by the district judge. Senator Vrtiska has brought the amendment, I helped sign onto it. It's one of those ones that we never like to think that the state of Nebraska has liability. These are cases where there was clear liability, and our obligation to pay that is here before us. These are not cases which, I believe, are discretionary, there can be discussion, I suppose, about the amount that they were settled for. But the bottom line is we need to pay those. I would move the amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. (Visitors introduced) Further discussion on amendment 1412? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm not sure whether Senator Kristensen misspoke or I misheard, so I would like to ask the Speaker a question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Kristensen?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Kristensen, did you say that we must, meaning that it is mandatory that we approve these settlements?