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LB 147

excellent committee hearing on the bill, some very, very good testimony from a surgeon at the Med Center to people who had been the recipients of the benefit of a donation of an organ, and a donor of an organ. So it's just...it's an excellent thing to do and so I would encourage the body to adopt this amendment and to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bromm. For discussion on the committee amendments to LB 147, Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I rise in support of the committee amendment. I also rise in support of the bill, itself. In the beginning of January, I signed on to the bill as a cosponsor believing it was a good idea, knowing that I have signed and been an organ donor myself for a number of years. Then on March 1st, while I was in session here this year, at 10:00 a.m., I received a telephone call from an Omaha police officer. That police officer informed me that I should get to Omaha to St. Joseph's Hospital as quickly as possible. My sister had been in a car accident and was in critical condition. I arrived there and it was not a difficult ti..it was a difficult time and it was not a good time to be able to make a decision about organ donors. However, my sister had made that decision, as I have, well in advance, and, as Senator Thompson had said, she made that wish known to those of us in her family. By making it known, by being informed herself, that decision was then not something that we had to make under very difficult circumstances. The decision was Diane's decision and, basically, the choice for us was to follow her decision and we were able to do that. I think that the program is an excellent one. I think it needs to be promoted. I think we need more education. This legislation allows that to be done. It offers the opportunity for people to be informed. It gives them the chance on their driver's license to make that dollar contribution. It's a voluntary contribution and that money can then be utilized to help people to be informed enough so that they can think about that decision. After thinking about it, they can discuss it with their families. They can decide what they really want to do at a time when they're not under emotional duress. And I can assure you that it's much easier for a family to then make that decision, based upon my personal experience. Even though I believed in it, I never