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FLOOR DEBATE

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volunteers      Earlier this session we did advance some legislation that was brought by myself to increase the life insurance on EMTs and firemen, and I think that was a big step. Some of the departments had already initiated this policy but this now would force the districts, rural fire protection districts, to bring that life insurance up to the adequate fee that it needed to be. And, Senator Hudkins, this is long overdue also, and I know how insurance companies work. They can usually find a flaw, but this would actually put them in line as soon as they heard the whistle or most of them have the responders, the little radios that they have on their belt now. So, and that a lot of times the accidents do happen on the way to and from a fire back to their place of residence or their place of business. So with that, I am in full support of the bill. I think it's something that's long overdue and I think it will put a lot of volunteers to rest and their families knowing that they will be covered from the time of inception of the response so...and until they return. With that, thank you, Senator Hudkins, for bringing this bill and I will certainly be in support of it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Janssen.      Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT:      Mr. President, members of the body, I simply rise in support of Senator Hudkins' bill and am glad that she's persistent, that she had it last year and she brought it back this year, and she made it her priority bill this year I think is good. I represent a part of one of the...the largest city in the state. We still have a volunteer department in our...full volunteer department in Bellevue. It's very professional staff that works. And I think that what Senator Hudkins in this bill is doing simply adds a little better protection for firemen across the state. And we are talking about, with this bill, we're talking about adding protection for over 12,000 volunteers. As Senator Combs said, volunteerism is part of our state. Volunteer firemen probably are a bigger number than the local fire...the paid fire people. So I simply rise to support Senator Hudkins and her...and LB 332. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Hartnett.      Senator