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correct this situation. And so I strongly support this bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Vrtiska, on advancement of LB 332.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I'll just take a minute. I just wanted to respond. I spent 39 years on the fire department and a good many years on EMTs. And, darn, during all those years I had no idea I wasn't covered the way this has been explained, and I think it's important. There are probably thousands of firemen and EMTs out there that had no idea that they could have, in fact, been at risk by not being covered by workmen's comp. So it's good to clear up this thing. You know, it's interesting because Senator Stalder, from my district, was the first one that brought this bill in and thought, in fact, the issue had been resolved. We later found out it hadn't been and, thanks to Senator Hudkins being able to seek this out and find out what was happening, she was willing to put a bill forth that would correct what we considered could be an injustice to people who are putting themselves in harm's way at times to serve the public. And so for that reason, I would expect and hope that this body would support this bill fully. With that, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Hudkins, there are no further lights on. Did you wish to close on advancement of LB 332.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, and thank you, too, to the senators who gave such resounding votes of approval to this bill. It is necessary, and we don't stop to think that our firemen are out there all kinds weather, all times of the day or night. Several years ago I had the opportunity or the necessity, I guess, of calling the fire department, and they were there within just minutes. I, later in that year I think we had a bill having to do with firemen and the cost of a call, and I asked the testifier, I said how much does it cost for a volunteer unit to come out. And they said, well, it depends on how far you are from the station, how many men come, what kind of equipment that they bring. And I said, all right, if you're a mile and a half from the station, you