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opening on the AM1355 to the committee amendment. Senator Preister. Excuse me, Senator Preister, I want to make an announcement first. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I rise particularly in support of what was LB 23, increasing the cap by approximately a half a million dollars, I believe, to \$1.75 million. I think that's important in light of the amount of time that's passed since that cap was enacted and to the current increase. I passed around to you a copy of a "Health Letter" from Public Citizen that is a consumer-oriented watchdog organization. On the back of that copy, there's some information there that particularly talks about some of the severity of some of the kinds of situations that people may be faced with. For ease of finding, it's the underlined portion on the back. But it talks about the importance of making people whole who have been wronged by some kind of medical practice. It lists, according to this, that people have experienced brain damage, spinal cord injuries, operation on the wrong parts of the body. There are a number of kinds of complications and issues that have happened to people through no fault of their own, and sometimes resulted because of certain errors. You've read recently in the paper where an individual was given the wrong blood type organ transaction that resulted ultimately in that person dying. How do you put a dollar value and a cost on somebody's life? As someone who knows that very well from when my sister was killed, you can't put a value on life. But to limit the amount and to so severely restrict that I don't think is a good thing to do. I think raising the cap is certainly something that is worthwhile doing and I do support that. On the front of this "Health Letter" it also talks about the kinds of things that are happening in the field, and I don't mention these just to put doctors down or the medical profession, but it states that there are estimated from 44,000 to 96,000 Americans who die in hospitals every year as the result of medical errors, up to 96,000 dying from those errors. Doctors, like all of us, make errors. There are errors that take place and they do result in deaths. According to this and other things that I've read, as many as almost 100,000 of those people die. I think we need to be concerned about the victims or the people that this has happened to. It goes on in the article that, according to a