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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I don't know that there's been any evaluation yet as to what that will do, because this is anticipatory. I am certain that it will increase it some, but I think that...I don't think it will be an oppressive increase, and I think that perhaps Senator Brashear may have a study on that, I don't know, but it seems to be a reasonable relation to what has taken place as far as time is concerned. And under our particular statute, which currently has been providing for \$1.25 million, to raise it to \$1.75 million, I don't think that that will make a burdensome thing as far as the medical providers are concerned.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you. And I certainly do understand that if there hasn't been an increase for 11 years that it probably is a reasonable cost-of-living increase and I wouldn't argue that case at all. I would like to have a little more discussion, perhaps off the mike, with Senator Brashear as far as what studies he's referring to there. My concern, of course, is what's happening in rural Nebraska, you know, doctors leaving our state because of the high cost of malpractice insurance. There are states that have initiated caps and then, of course, most of the doctors seem to head towards those states and leave the states that have a higher rate. That's just a concern and I'm just wondering if anybody else had those same concerns. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Senator Chambers, on the amendment to the committee amendments to LB 146.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Aguilar had touched on some things that are of interest to me too, and I don't disagree with what he said. And if there was some way we could bring the insurance industry to heel, everybody would be better off, and there might be the opportunity to discuss that before we finish on this bill. But right now, when Senator Aguilar mentioned that there might be...I'd like to ask him a question.