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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think that it's more easily presented to you in this fashion. There are the two features that we are really talking about at this stage of the debate, and the two features of this have to do with my original LB 146 which corrected a couple of matters in the current medical malpractice law that essentially provides two very simple matters. One, it provides that the amount of money that's collected for the surcharge will be made by the Department of Insurance itself. The providers will pay money directly to the Department of Insurance rather than through the provider. And the second part simply has to do with providing a modest change in the act dealing with the panel that is considering any malpractice claim. That's just a mechanical thing. I don't believe that either one of these seriously affect the current integrity of the law. It just makes it a little more workable. I think that Senator Brown has brought to us, in her portion of this that we're discussing now, a very important feature dealing with the way that people are treated as far as medical attention is concerned, and certainly enables people who are retired or just volunteering their services to receive an immunity, a reasonable immunity, that will not jeopardize their assets, and I think that's very important that we accomplish these things. We're looking primarily to the general health care of our citizens and these are two methods by which we can aid that process. I would urge your adoption of this portion of the divided question. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Beutler, on FA1315.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback. Senator Brown, if I could just ask you a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brown, would you respond?

SENATOR BROWN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I really appreciate the fact that you're addressing this area and it all makes a lot of sense to me. I wanted to ask you about the subsection (2) that begins on line 17 of page 9, and I'm just trying to read over this quickly