

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 16, 2003

LB 146

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, as you will remember on this bill, there is a provision that was originally a bill that I sponsored that provides for physicians and other medical professionals who do services voluntarily, for them to be exempted from liability, and we included a list of health care professionals that do do pro bono kind of work, and who had gotten back to our office and wanted to be included. I omitted the pharmacists from that list, and they would like to be included. The rest of the amendment just makes some clarifying language to an amendment we adopted on General File. And so I would urge the adoption of this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. You've heard the opening on AM1487. Open for discussion on that amendment. There are no lights on, Senator Brown. She waives the opportunity to close. The question before the body is adoption of AM1487 offered by Senator Brown to LB 146. All in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed nay. The issue before us is adoption of AM1487. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Brown's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Open for discussion on the bill, Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I was absent on the first round of the debate on this bill, and I do support this. Senator Brashear has worked on raising the cap for years, and I think that's wholly appropriate. Some of the comments that were made on the first round, though, I think were not complete. This doesn't, per se, control costs I don't think. We are, to some extent, shifting costs to the state when we keep our cap at this level, even though it's higher than the past level. The Gourley decision on malpractice caps was settled. The announcement was today. It was...the rule was