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that kind of an addition.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So now we're coming to what I want to get to. This really is a bill that benefits physicians, and it does not have the public primarily in mind. Although the public may tangentially benefit, this bill itself is of no benefit to the public at all, is it?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, when we increase the amount of the cap, we've made a potential encroachment on that fund itself. And so with the additional amount that we're putting into this cap fund, it will further protect the Nebraska citizens, that there will be additional funding available upon their claim in the event that it's in excess of the amount of coverage that the individual physician is carrying. So I think it's beneficial, in that respect, to the public.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But the bill that...even though I think it did not go far enough, the bill that was passed with an eye toward improving the recovery rate of aggrieved citizens was passed last year.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And this is now the physicians' benefit bill, more or less.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, I don't know how you say this. For example, if a physician had coverage of \$500,000 and didn't have any more assets that could be gone after, if there wasn't an Excess Liability Fund, the citizen might be in trouble being able to collect that. This does provide that excess amount of money available to the public, so I think it has a beneficial effect to make certain that there is sufficient asset to provide for coverage to the individual.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Pederson, the recovery amount in Nebraska is relatively low, compared to recovery amounts in the rest of the country. Would you agree or disagree with that?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I think that's been true. It's averaging