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LB 998

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...with what we have to work with. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, there are no further lights on, so you're recognized to close on FA1495 to AM2697 to LB 998.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And when I'm given the one-minute warning, I'm going to withdraw this particular proposed amendment. To be frank about it, more time has been used on Senator Pederson's bill than I had intended to at the outset, but as I listened to the explanation of the 'll and looked at its terms and began to think abo the interrelationship between it and that other bill that related to caps, it was necessary, in my opinion, to put some things on the record for the purpose of clarity, so that the public will not misunderstand what we're doing. I have touched on that, but I'm going to elaborate more without waiting until my five minutes are almost elapsed. When people are desperate and they are in desperate straits, anything they see that offers hope will be clutched by those people to their bosom, and they'll hold onto it almost as strongly as people will cling to life. So we must be sure that nothing we do or say will mislead people, who are in desperate straits, into thinking that what we're doing will in any way alleviate their situation. If we pass this bill, as I think we might, but we might not get it that far. But if we pass it, doctors will pay a greater premium. However, not one additional red cent will be added to that cap. Those families, those individuals that have bumped up against that cap are not going to be benefited at all by what it is we're doing with this bill. Nobody is going to be benefited by it. I have to make it clear that I'm not suggesting that those who may not have filed malpractice lawsuits yet, or those who may have filed and their suits have not reached finality, are going to benefit from this bill by the cap being relaxed. No, the cap is in place. It has not been touched. It's like a gray steel vault, arching over all of these people who have those claims, and that vault will not be dented, that vault will not be scratched, that vault will