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FLOOR DEBATE

January 27, 2005 LB 119

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...damaging and inappropriate regulatory provisions at the federal level.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senators Preister and Beutler. On with discussion. Senator Bourne, followed by Senators Mines, Wehrbein, Chambers, Fischer, and Preister. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Mines, I think you've got a good piece of work here and I appreciate you bringing it to the body. I am trying to ascertain what Senator Beutler's concerns are, and I'm not quite sure what he is saying as far as this compact and commission and that. But I will tell you that our Department of Insurance is the gold standard for the entire United States of America. Every state should be so fortunate to have the Department of Insurance that we have here in this state. It is as good as it gets from both an industry and a consumer's perspective. Senator Mines, in his bill, he has the file and use provisions, which I absolutely support. I think it brings the insurance industry into the...this century. It is not anticonsumer to have this type of thing. It absolutely relies on the market. There's mechanisms in there for the department to protect the consumer. And I support it. It makes sense. It's efficient. It's the right thing to do. And I know Senator Beutler has some concerns with it. He has in the past. I don't share his concerns. I just thought I would put that out before we get mired down in a series of amendments. But I think this is good legislation, I think it's progressive and, again, I think that we have the absolute standard as it relates to the Department of Insurance. Any state should be so lucky to have what we have here. And I don't believe...I don't know if Senator Beutler is attributing some of these problems that are...or we're seeing throughout the country, I don't know if he's attributing them to the state of Nebraska, but if he is, that's inappropriate. I'm going to continue to listen to the debate. I'm not quite certain what he's talking about as far as the compact goes, but I am supportive of the rest of the information in the bill and I thank you, Senator Mines, for bringing it to us.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Mines, on the committee amendments.