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March 24, 2005 LB 361, 446

in a safer manner. I'd like to yield the remaining, if I have any time...could I yield time to Senator Jensen to discuss this?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may.

SENATOR BOURNE: Senator Jensen, if...as it was your bill, and it was an excellent idea, and it had a very favorable review in the Judiciary Committee, if you'd like the remainder of my opening to discuss LB 446, it's yours.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. LB 446, I think, was a very, very important bill. As you may or may not know, somewhere between 44,000 and 98,000 people in the United States die from medical errors per year. Certainly, the medical community has been cognizant of this, and have been trying and endeavoring to provide a system where they could improve, within their own walls, patient safety. And that certainly is everything from prescriptions to medical errors that occur within the hospital setting, within the surgery setting. It would allow employees and others to record and to advise and...of near misses and of accidents that could happen, or could be prevented, to a safety...patient safety organization, whereby then, through education and through other endeavors, that you could lessen that. You know, I come from a construction industry, which, many years ago, did not have a great deal of safety requirements and safety measures. And through the years, they found out that there are things that could be done that would reduce accidents. And certainly, if you have employees that make suggestions, they should be allowed to do that without any repercussion whatsoever. And it contributes to the overall safety of the organization. The same thing is certainly within the medical community. And how can we provide for that, and how can we do that, without the...the immunity really is not changed all that much, other than, the employee or the person recording that or making recommendations can do this freely. And if he's not allowed to do it freely, you're not going to get full participation. So that is the reason for the bill. I really...I was asked to bring this by the hospital association, and I was very pleased to do that,