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LB 713

copy of LB 713 that would have removed the mandatory requirement. It would have used the state evidence kit that would be prescribed by the Attorney General's Office, and it would be...would be stored by the hospital in some form or fashion for later use by law enforcement and the authorities. I'm not going to offer an amendment. I'm not going to try and change that because I am also unsure as to how we would proceed in a way that would protect the evidence, make it valuable evidence for a prosecutor down the road, merge with the constitutional rights of a defendant, and accomplish what that victim wants in the end, is justice, and time to make those decisions. But I think we have to think hard in the future, maybe not this year but some year, for those senators that will be around here for a number of years, we need to think about how we could address the concerns of the victim with regard to the mandatory reporting. My biggest fear is that there's a victim in Nebraska today that did not report what happened to her or him because they are afraid of what will happen criminally after that, and they're not prepared to go down that road.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FLOOD: We live in a culture that does not treat sexual assault victims very well when they get to court. The process itself can be very painful for the victim, and I think that's something we have to think about down the road. I do support the evidence kit. I think Senator Thompson was right on with making this uniform, and removing the statute of limitations for these horrific crimes makes sense to me. There's always an evidence problem the further it goes down the road, but I know that county attorneys across Nebraska will do a good job in prosecuting cases where they've got the evidence and they can match a defendant to the evidence. So I do support the bill. I will be supporting the committee amendments and Senator Bourne's amendment with regard to domestic violence legislation. But I do hope that at some time this Unicameral looks at how we can address the immediate situation that a victim is placed in following an assault. Thank you, Mr. President. I return the balance of my time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Flood. The issue before