

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 31, 2005

LB 116

practitioners or healthcare providers are doing is saying they're not interested in getting that negotiated amount, the \$750. They are not going to deal with the insurance company. They're going to put a medical lien in place for the full \$1,000. That way they will get the full \$1,000 from the person rather than the \$750. So let's say the person gets a settlement of \$1,000. The practitioner, instead of getting the \$750 that had been negotiated for, gets the full \$1,000. Now, while Senator Beutler is bemoaning the plight of the practitioner... I meant the chiropractor, he's not bemoaning what happens to these patients, these injured people who are, because of a loophole, going to be held to give up \$1,000 instead of the \$750 that that the hospital agreed to accept. The hospital agreed to accept this. But they say, because the Legislature was shortsighted and I see an unintended consequence that will benefit me under the law that they passed, I'm going to disregard dealing with the insurer; I don't want to be paid by the insurer; I want the full \$1,000, so I'll put a medical lien. Then, if the person gets a judgment, out of that judgment the hospital takes \$1,000 and forgets or reneges on the negotiated \$750. How noble is that? So Senator Beutler says, tsk, tsk, tsk, that should not be; however, since it is,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...there's a lobbyist who wants his clients to be able to get in on the gravy train too; he wants to be able to pile on this injured person. So whereas you've got a bad law, he's justified in making it worse. And since you all may be of a mind to make it worse, I want to make that worse even worse, and that's what my amendment would attempt to do. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Engel, followed by Senator Brown and six others, on FA317.

SENATOR ENGEL: Call the question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The question has been called. Senator Engel, what was your request? Senator Engel.