

and know it generally and that we are just kind of putting on the frosting, so to speak, with the explanations here on the floor. And on that basis then let me go ahead and tell you what the original bill does and what the amendments do. I don't think there is anybody even remotely interested in any of this, from looking around. But anyway that's okay. LB 692, and I move adoption of the committee amendments now that they have been thoroughly explained to everybody. I was just seeing if any of you were even remotely paying attention and you weren't. Okay, LB 692. What the original bill does is make three basic changes. First of all, there is a limit on recoveries. It changes the existing limit from \$500,000 to \$800,000. That is the existing bill. The Review Panel which you are all familiar with, the bill would permit plaintiffs to waive their right to a medical Review Panel. The Review Panel has been a big stumbling block. And with respect to the Department of Insurance, one of the controversies there is whether the Department of Insurance is really running this thing or has the authority to run it. This gives the Department the authority to adopt the rules and regs. under the act for administrative matters. Now, the committee amendments in addition to those things, and everyone of these is some area of controversy that we tried to work out as a form of compromise that I think is reasonable. So here is what the committee amendments do. They make the statute of repose for minors and incompetents consistent with other Nebraska law. You have a Supreme Court decision on this subject. We are just bringing this bill into compliance with that decision. It removes the prohibition against joining court actions against qualified and nonqualified providers. That was done at the insistence of the trial attorneys and we hope it is a reasonable proposal. We permit either parent to opt out of the act for a child. Of course, you have to understand the whole opt out concept. Under this proposal, both the father or the mother could opt out. As it is now, only the mother can opt out for a child. Another provision removes the requirements that a plaintiff demand a jury trial when filing a case. Again this is to accommodate the trial attorneys. We think it is reasonable and workable. We also clarify when a provider's qualifications begins and terminates under the act. This is basically housekeeping, clarify this