

such a thing would exist or does exist but, in fact, and unfortunately it does and it is often in the doctor's office or the hospital that that abuse is seen. Now it is interesting that the physicians say that they should be out of it because of privilege but as Senator Haberman points out, other health providers like the nurse who is in the physicians office or the nurse who is in the hospital or an aide or an attendant or a physician's assistant, they, the medical association, does not remove them from the law so you create the situation where the nurse that has maybe observed the treatment of abuse is required by law to report it but the doctor isn't. That doesn't make sense and it is amazing to me the medical association somehow decides that doctors shouldn't have to report but everybody around the doctor should be required to report and, in fact, that would be a very awkward situation it would seem to me, if the physician feels immune from reporting but the physician's staff has to report abuse if they see it. So I think that we should defeat the amendment and perhaps clergy, there is some sort of special situation there, an immunity maybe could be provided. Attorneys, I can't imagine how many times they are going to run into these cases anyway but I think that it is more...I really question taking physicians out of this because I really think it damages any effort for us to find the problem and to require all other medical personnel, I mean the people that work around the physician to be required to report it, amazes me but then we would say that the doctor....

SENATOR CLARK: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR FOWLER: ...is unable to do it. So I think the amendment should be defeated and I can't imagine the Nebraska Bar Association coming in and killing a bill like this simply because the physicians and attorneys weren't exempted. I just can't believe that the professional association representing the attorneys of the State of Nebraska would do such a thing and I'm sure that Senator DeCamp is exaggerating the position. That is often a lobbying tool but I can't see Larry Ruth doing that to this bill. It just seems totally out of character for him, so I would certainly oppose the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch, did you wish to speak again?

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I do. You know I live in a district where we have a lot of doctors. It is interesting that not one doctor called me about this particular bill and I mean when I say a lot I am talking about many. Here we are because a lobbyist believes that the