

that the testimony be corroborated. A legal term, corroboration means that the victim's testimony must be supported by separate legal evidence that sexual penetration or intercourse has occurred. Nebraska is the last state in the nation to require corroboration in incest cases and corroboration is often difficult to produce due to the nature of incest which involves secrecy. Rarely are there witnesses. Victims are reluctant to report the crime. Legally admissible physical evidence is hard to obtain as the victims are often afraid to disclose the abuse for years. Legal and psychiatric experts agree that the children rarely fabricate an incest or sexual abuse report. Children who can report specific details of adult sexual behavior most likely have participated in or witnessed what they describe. In addition to striking the language requiring corroboration, this bill states specifically that the testimony of victims shall be entitled to the same weight as the testimony of victims of other crimes. They will be treated the same. The language is not intended to trigger a jury instruction as to the weight to be given the victim's testimony. I move for the advancement of LB 89 and request your support in moving it along.

PRESIDENT: Is there discussion on LB 89? If not, the motion is to advance the bill from General File. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance LB 89.

PRESIDENT: The motion prevailing, the bill does advance. Next is LB 315.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 315 was a bill offered by Senators Wesely and Withem. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 17, referred to Public Health and Welfare. The bill was advanced to General File. There are Public Health and Welfare Committee amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely. There you are.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. The Public Health and Welfare Committee amendments to LB 315 tighten up the ability to release these records. Under the bill as introduced, it would have provided for blanket authorization