

a way to make things work better in this state. I oppose the kill motion and will vote to advance the bill.

SENATOR LABEDZ: We are speaking on the indefinite postponement of LB 520 as introduced by Senator Lamb and the next speaker is Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Madam Chairman and colleagues, we are going to be making a very serious mistake if we indefinitely postpone this bill. You know, we have here a citizens' Legislature and all of us have full-time jobs outside the body and we learn from those full-time jobs. I happen to be a litigator. I am a lawyer and I spend virtually all of my time litigating lawsuits. This is within the field of my specialty. This is not just a lawyer's issue, this is a litigator's issue. And in many respects, the Uniform Arbitration Act cuts against my personal interest. I would just as soon, personally, as far as my practice and my partners are concerned, not to see it pass because it is going to take business away from the litigators. But that doesn't mean that it is in the best interests of the State of Nebraska to defeat this bill. It clearly is not. We have had, in this last year, a couple of years ago we had 200,000 cases filed in federal court. At the same time, we had 40,000 cases that were settled through the arbitration process in the 44 other states of this union that have an arbitration process. Now, is it really good for Nebraska not to allow arbitration, not to have an arbitration process? Instead, as Senator Landis and Senator Withem indicate, to require people that have a dispute come hire me at \$75 an hour to look to a year and a half or two years to having their disputes litigated? Or to get together, select an arbitrator and find a cheap, swift, sure way of resolving their dispute? Now we have attempted to keep LB 520 restricted and limited just to a couple of situations in the initial years that we experiment with it, frankly, because the lawyers are very worried about this. The House of Delegates or the Bar Association was very concerned about this because they are worried about how it is going to affect their practices and how it is going to affect the operation of justice in the State of Nebraska. I would urge you not to get hung up on the fact that there is one lobby group out there that thinks it is going to be against their interests, against the interests of school boards around the state, to give school boards the option of entering into an arbitration agreement if they want. See beyond that. Look