

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Madam President, how much time do we have left on the bill?

SENATOR MARSH: Three minutes.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: All right. Let me make two statements in support of this bill. Number one, I understand there might be some feeling unaffirmed that I personally or our law office handles drunk driving cases and that somehow has something to do with this bill. Let me tell you that is absolutely incorrect. I have not handled a drunk driving case in Omaha and our office does not handle them. This is strictly what I think is in the best interest of the State of Nebraska and this bill was initially brought to me by the Chief Probation Officer in Douglas County who has seen individual after individual losing a job. Second, this does not in any significant way soften the Legislature's efforts to have strong drunk driving legislation.

SENATOR MARSH: The call is raised.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: It deals with the unique situation where an individual is going to lose his job, put himself out of work, be unable to support his family because he has got a first offense drunk driving conviction. Now I think the public understands that we are not in any respect softening the energies we have directed towards curing the drunk driving problem by allowing this very closely defined exception to be placed into law. Now we may run out of time today. If we do, I ask you to think hard on this issue because it is very important to a small number of people, and we may not run out of time. In hopes that we don't, I will move now that the bill be advanced. Thank you.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Nichol is next, then Senator DeCamp and Senator Labeledz.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, so that we don't run over time on my fault, to be my fault, I would just say, let's not open the gate, let's not start this business. This was all hashed out for or five years ago and Senator Hoagland knows it was, and he has changed again on a situation that he knew darn well what he was doing four or five years ago, and he knows it is right now. When we let a certain small percentage of people off the hook, we let everybody off the hook. So I want to send the message clear to young folks