

side a hammer. It gives both sides the charge to be reasonable and it makes them pay a penalty if they don't. The plaintiff loses any rights to prejudgment interest if they are not reasonable. The defendant loses their right to be unreasonable, go to trial and then simply pay the award for whatever amount of time has passed since the amount of injury without any reasonable compensation to that plaintiff. That is an evenhanded approach and ultimately it promotes settlements which most assuredly has to be done. This is not as one-sided, if you will, as the 157 proposal that was killed last year by the Legislature. What has happened is you have beat the side of the horse up alongside of the head with a two-by-four and they have said, wait a second, we have to make our demands less onerous, more fair-minded and ultimately they have done exactly that. This is, in my mind, a fair and reasonable approach for prejudgment interest.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Landis. May we have order in the Chamber, please, and the Chair would like to announce on behalf of all the members of the Legislature that we have a group of distinguished citizens in the north balcony this morning, the League of Women Voters of Nebraska, 12 members from all over the state. With them is Vera May Lutz, President. And also Senator Wesely has as his guests in the north balcony, 31 members of the Nebraska Health Care Association with Sandra Hockley accompanying them. We very much appreciate your coming in to the Legislature and observing our procedures. If you would all stand, we would like to recognize you and welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator DeCamp, are you available to discuss...they are still on the amendment that you have offered. Senator DeCamp calls the question. There are some other speakers. I will put the question to you. Do I see five hands? I don't see five hands. I do see five seconding hands. I will put the question to you. Shall the debate now cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. The question has been called and the motion is to cease debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Please record your vote. Twenty-five votes required. Have you all recorded your vote? Have you all recorded your vote? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President. The motion fails and the Chair recognizes Senator Carsten. After Senator Carsten the speaking order is Senator Hannibal