

and the few and I doubt this body's sense of compassion to overrule the political desires of the many to reward the legitimate needs of the few because all you're going to have out there are one or two or three examples in any stretch of four or five or six years when you're going to trigger this kind of a cap. And compared to those three or four individuals you are going to have all of the taxpayers of this state. This winds up being a transfer system, a transfer system from taxpayers into wronged individuals who have suffered loss at the hands of municipalities and local political subdivisions and that transfer is going to be very uncomfortable to make. That's why there is a lot of pressure for this bill. What's going to happen is over time that pressure is going to continue to bubble and there's going to be no less pressure to do what the municipalities want five years from today than there is today. I doubt very much whether this will be a limit that we will raise judiciously, compassionately two, three, four, five years from today. This is going to get locked in and we can forget it. Why? Because a lot of people have money taken away in a transfer system to give it to a few and that's not what politics winds up supporting. There is every reason to have the momentum to keep this where it is and to allow it to stay there ad infinitum. That's why the amendment makes sense and I support it.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I support the amendment and I think what is being offered by the amendment is reasonable and is an attempt to bring fairness into a basically unfair situation. When the political subdivisions were able to get the Legislature to put this cap, the \$1 million for an individual injured, \$5 million maximum no matter how many people are injured in one given incident was not based on any rational relationship between the amount awarded and the cost of making people whole who have been harmed. It's a number that's convenient, round and will seem to the public to have some significance, but catastrophic injuries wipe out money in the same way that a group of legislators can wipe out all the food that a lobbyist might serve in a given afternoon. The point has to be made because Senator Higgins mentioned that if she got a million dollar settlement she would invest it and the amount of interest she mentioned I don't think you can get now, from 9 to 12 percent, but even