

compensate workers who do suffer from some physically debilitating condition that results directly from their employment. That's exactly what we're talking about here. My amendment does nothing to change that. It simply inserts the condition of cumulative trauma, acknowledging that that exists, that that can occur as a result of work-related activities and that an individual that does suffer from that, because of their work-related activities, ought to be compensated. That's all my amendment does. Is it major change as far as the number of claims? We don't know. Senator Coordsen is right, we don't know what the result of this would be. That's the case whenever we go into the workers' compensation statutes and start changing things around because they ultimately are due to the interpre...what results ultimately is due to the interpretation of our Nebraska Supreme Court. And we've seen on the tax issues that they can have many and varied interpretations of different things that come along. But this is simply an issue of fairness. It's the only fair thing to do, is to allow employees to recover workmen's compensation, for employees to be compensated when they suffer from an injury that's directly work related. That's all LB 360 with this amendment would be saying. I would urge your adoption of it and any time I have left I would give to Senator Morrissey.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Will. Mr. Speaker and members, I would like to focus, again, Senator Hefner said the purpose of this bill is to lighten the load on the Workers' Comp Court. The purpose of this bill is to more efficiently address workers' comp cases, and if we adopt this language and there are a flood of cases and we don't know, that means there are a lot of people out there that were having trouble and think they were denied justice under the present system. So we need to efficiently and fairly address worker comp claims. Again, I will tell you what I know, and that is midwestern workers, the workers from Nebraska are reluctant, very reluctant to turn in these claims and forms to build these case histories. And it doesn't always happen that there is one point in time that you can point to the day that that's when my back went, that was it, that was it, but you have to prove it's work related. You have to prove it's work related. Senator Will, as he said, is not changing that.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.