

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I was just going to respond somewhat. Senator...I think Senator Lindsay did a very good job. One of the reasons that you in the past have avoided a jury trial obviously was in closing argument this occurring. Ladies and gentlemen, it isn't anybody but the State of Nebraska who have got plenty of money or Kearney County or Douglas County who have plenty of money, they've got all this tax base that they can pay it and what they try to do is inflate the awards because it isn't coming out of anybody's pocket but this innocuous State of Nebraska or some county and it's the old deep pocket theory that if people know there's plenty of money out there, they will give more damages and that's always been the fear and thus the reason that there's not been jury trials. And so you could argue both ways because I would love to stand up as a juror and say, look, if you give them any money, your taxes are going to go up. So there is an argument both ways but, quite frankly, history has always been we've not done that with jury trials and I would venture to say there would be a lot of people up and very nervous if we're going to put jury trials in right now and I assume that that's the reason the committee chose to do that the way they did. I would support the committee amendments the way they're written. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Any other discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Lindsay, would you like to close?

SENATOR LINDSAY: I would simply urge the adoption of the amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard the closing on the committee amendments. We will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the committee amendments. Have you all voted? Have you all voted on the committee amendments to LB 262? Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. Speaker, I would ask for a call of the house and accept call-in votes.

SPEAKER BAACK: A call of the house has been requested. All