

to spend on them and that's the least that we can offer people, it seems to me. I think the most cherished right that we have as Americans is the right to vote, but the second one that I think if you went to the man in the street and asked for, they would say that their right for a day in court is the second most precious right that they have. That right, so long as it is premised on an exceptional delay, on high costs and on an inattentive or too-rushed jurisprudence is really diminished. My second point I want to make is this, not only do we have a judge in there more than half-time doing the work now that needs to be done, this last summer we brought in two district judges from around the state, Steve Finn and Tom Dorwart from Sidney. Both of those judges walked away from the calendar that they tried to help bring up to par and they walked away from their time there saying, this bench needs assistance. Now, frankly, I will tell you, and we can speak truthfully among ourselves, the Omaha municipal bench is not the most illustrious in the state. There can be no doubt about that. But if there is remedy there, it doesn't lie in denying this amendment to 147 but to take one of the avenues that there are for discipline of judges. As far as kids, victims, plaintiffs, defendants, abused and neglected individuals and their parents, they are the ones who profit by 147 and that's the people we should be concerned about. Let's adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. The question is the adoption of the Ashford amendment to LB 147. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Ashford's amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Back to the bill as amended. Senator Bernard-Stevens, on the bill. Thank you. Any discussion? If not, any closing comment? The introducer is not here. Anyone else prepared? Senator McFarland.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to remind the body what the bill does. LB 147, in its preamended form, would increase the number of District Court judges from 48 to 50 and the two additional District Court