

If we would write numbers of opinions per judge, we're probably writing somewhere around 400, 500 opinions a year. We're seriously behind in a backlog. If we don't take care of this backlog, we're not going to be able to address any other problem that we have in the Supreme Court. We are going to be in, next year, talking about a permanent, intermediate court of appeals. I think that is when the real issue and debate ought to be, do we need more judges, do we need to do certain things to restrict the number of appeals. I happen to don't think we shouldn't restrict the number of appeals, because it's a reflection of society and the problems that society is having. And this morning sometimes you want the forum so you can vent your anger at the Supreme Court or at judges that you don't like, and maybe that is a good exercise for the body to do. But I would urge you to advance this bill on, it's a necessary bill and it's one that is desperately needed, not by judges, not by lawyers, but by the people who are waiting two years to get a decision. You know, two years is an awful long time to wait to see if you're going to get your check when you've been injured. Two years is an awful long time to find out if a bill that we pass in this body is constitutional before it can take place. Two years is an awful long time for people whose very lives depend on the decision of the Supreme Court. And you may say, look, you know, I'm not the person that's before the Supreme Court, but you know, quite frankly, all of us are there every day because they have far-reaching decisions on everything we do in here, every aspect of your business or your profession is dictated in one manner or another by the Supreme Court. And I'd urge you to advance this bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before recognizing Senator Bernard-Stevens for additional discussion, Senator Conway is announcing some guests in the north balcony, 31 fourth graders from Homer Community School with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you, we're pleased to have you with us. Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senators Chambers, Schmit and Wehrbein.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I just wanted to express a couple of thoughts I think more for the record than anything else, and possibly Senator Chambers or Senator Kristensen can respond on their time, if they so desire. I look at the statements and the information that has been given to us on the backlog of the Supreme Court. I look at the...I talk with people on the floor and people say