

they want somebody else to come around and take a look and say, hey, what the judge did down in that lower court was wrong. We feel slighted. We feel that there has been a grave injustice, and I have got to tell you every litigant in a lawsuit, that is the most important thing to them. Now whether that is a divorce case, or whether that is a speeding case, or whether that is a capital offense where somebody's life is at stake, those of us that look into that will remove from that case, and we'll say, well, now that case isn't quite as important, all that is doing is some routine things, but now here is a case that is really important. And who is going to decide what is important or what is not important? That is our job here in the Legislature to try to determine some manner of jurisdiction. What this amendment is now is allowing us to create an appellate court. You and I and every other member in this body are going to decide what that appellate court is going to look like. There are going to be amendments that are going to come up today where they are saying, well, let's just make those old judges work a little harder. They can't and, quite frankly, you don't want them to, and the reason is right now those judges write about 74 opinions apiece per year, far above the average. Most appeals judges write somewhere down in the thirties and forties. We are at 74. Now what does that mean? They are too busy just deciding what is right and wrong, whether a case was correctly decided or not without giving us some direction. How many of us have sat down and read a Supreme Court case to try to determine whether an act of the Legislature is constitutional, whether a statute that we've put into place really does what we think it does? They are the ultimate decider of our disputes, the Nebraska Supreme Court. They don't have the corner on being right. They are human beings and they are judges. Our courts are as good as the people that we place in there, and this notion that somehow these appellate judges are going to be less qualified, they are going to make poorer decisions, is not true. We are still going to put the most important cases to them. We are going to make sure that murder cases that involve the death penalty and the constitutionality of every statute that we pass, if that comes into question, that is still going to go to the full Nebraska Supreme Court, and you are going to have seven people there with various backgrounds, one may be a plumber, one may be a lawyer, quite frankly, they are all going to be lawyers but they come from different backgrounds and that is the reason you want a court with seven members sitting there hearing the most important cases. They have got different intellects, they have got different perspectives. That is the reason it is good