

who is going to be the judge because that is really the important issue. Once we decide we're going to have three more judges or two more judges at the Supreme Court level, great, but I think the essence is, who are the judges going to be? And that's why I've really got...I'm very interested in this proposal to have we as legislators involved in the decision-making process and I think maybe what we ought to do is just think about this whole thing for a while, and we ought to maybe have a study and we ought to look at it and we ought to decide what is the best way to go because I think it all kind of goes together. I think the public would be much more receptive to increasing, much, much more receptive to increasing the number of judges on the Supreme Court if they have more direct input through their elected representatives...

SENATOR LABEDZ: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...thank you, Madam President, through their elected representatives as to who the judges are going to be. I think it's a good argument and I'm glad Senator Wesely, Senator Chizek and Senator Chambers have brought it to us. So I'd kind of like to decide that issue too as part and parcel of where we're going with this. I'm not necessarily saying that Senator Kristensen is wrong, because I don't think he is. I think he has got some good points, but I don't think Senator Lindsay is absolutely wrong in his arguments either. But the real issue is trust by the public in what the judiciary is doing and one way to bring that trust to bear is to have us involved as elected representatives on the issue of who the judges are going to be. Thank you.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a couple more questions I would like to ask and I think I'll continue for just a little bit talking with you, Senator Kristensen, if I may?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Kristensen, can you tell me how Nebraska compares with the number of cases which they now have before the Supreme Court, you know, as compared with other states.