

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Abhoud, please, Senator Kristensen on deck.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, I have a couple of quick remarks, and then, hopefully, we will be proceeding to a vote prior to the lunch hour on this amendment. The one thing that I think we should remember about this particular amendment as well as this particular bill is that the people of the State of Nebraska have to decide whether they choose to have their Supreme Court and appellate court system established in this manner. The people of the State of Nebraska will have the opportunity to vote on it. Just as the people in this state have chosen to file an ever increasing amount of lawsuits against each other, they have the final authority to decide whether or not this new system should be established. We as legislators have to deal with a very difficult problem of a huge, huge backlog in our Nebraska Supreme Court. Now establishing a system like this, like Senator Lindsay's proposal of having three, essentially, three Supreme Court judges making the determination of some very important lawsuits, I don't feel is in the best interest of the State of Nebraska. I think we owe it to the people of this state that if there is an important issue that has to be decided before the court, that the entire court should make that determination. Much the same as when Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973, the nine judges of the U.S. Supreme Court made that determination, and I can bet that most members in this body would prefer to have the entire nine-member panel of the U.S. Supreme Court make the final determination on any future abortion issues, or any rights that we hold very dear to our hearts. The people in the state deserve the entire seven-member court to make a determination, and if we don't do that, then I think we are denying those people certain rights. I would urge the rejection of this amendment and the eventual passage of the bill (sic). Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, there are several good reasons for us to vote against Senator Lindsay's amendment. That amendment has been before the committee, received an extensive hearing, was killed in committee, but also Senator Pirsch alluded to the State of Minnesota tried the exact same thing that Senator Lindsay is referring to and it didn't work. It didn't work at all and, in fact, they went back to the system of an intermediate court of