

cases are decided by judges, both in the state and the federal courts and we've been successful with them. And to try and create specific examples and then try to say that that represents the way the judiciary performs in our state and federal government is ludicrous. It is an outrage that those kind of things are said. There are examples where judges have not performed as well as they should have and there are some judges who should not be judges. There are some lawyers who should not be lawyers. There are some legislators who should not be legislators. There are some doctors who shouldn't be doctors and in every profession or every occupation there are some people who do not measure up. But to try and generalize from a few specific instances is unfair and unreasonable. There may be a purpose. I mean one may feel bitter, one may feel hurt, one may feel slighted by the entire system and one may want to make those kind of criticisms because of those hurt feelings and those past injustices that one may have suffered, but what we're trying to deal with here is not from...a view of any one person's perspective and how skewed or slanted that may be. We're trying to deal with reality and what the situation is in the judiciary in our state. I guarantee you that the salary that is provided for in this bill is fair and reasonable. It's not excessive. It's not inadequate. The only reason that I hear that may be a valid question of it is the significance of the raise and the reason for the significance of the raise is because of the relatively low salary that has been paid for the past several years. I think it has been mentioned that we ranked 24th at one time in judicial salaries. Now we're down to 44th. That is something we should not be proud of. There may be a lot of applicants for judicial openings. That doesn't mean that we couldn't have better applicants. My perception is that when we have a judicial opening, we get some very, very qualified candidates who are willing to make the sacrifice and...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...make the...take the relatively modest pay that is offered right now. What I'm afraid of also is there are a lot of persons who apply for those jobs who are not as experienced as maybe they should be, maybe not as well educated as they should be, maybe need a few more years of practice, maybe need a few more years of education or maybe a few more years of trial experience or experience in particular general broad background in the law to be good candidates. My fear is