

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, proceed.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, I appreciate Senator Haberman's answer, I guess, is how I describe it. I do not recall those letters coming in and perhaps that is the case. But Senator Haberman knows that we have been looking at this matter and the committee has been working on this area statewide and we have tried in many ways to address those concerns. We helped in previous years to make sure that those rural offices that wanted to be shut down, if you recall in 1987, were kept open in rural Nebraska and we have advanced LB 720 to try and provide caseworkers everywhere in the state. So it's not any, I think, case whatsoever that we have ignored the problem and haven't taken action. I think, clearly, there is a concern and a willingness to cooperate but I think that concern is and ought to be a statewide concern and not one simply focused in on southwest Nebraska. So...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...if Senator Haberman's attitude is such as he has expressed it, I would think that we would want to oppose this amendment and perhaps reconsider something that would attempt to address the problem on a statewide basis and not on a particularly parochial one.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. Speaker and members, Senator Warner, I was on the Government Committee. This was a very late hearing that we had and it's my opinion that we thought the bill probably was going nowhere. I believe that he does have problems out there, after we had the hearing, why I think we're convinced there is problems out there. But Kermit McMurray was there and he, when they left, he said, well, talk to me and we'll see what we can do without this study, without spending this extra money. And I think maybe the committee just probably just let it sit there. And that's really about all I can tell you. We thought at such a late date it was not going to go anywhere. And I don't know how inflation hit at \$15,000 since it was before the committee, but I'm willing to support this because, like he calls it windshield time, I call it they've got miles and miles of nothing but miles and miles out there. We have had some problems in my district also. But I feel I have had pretty good