

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Abboud, please, followed by Senator Lynch and Senator Langford. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Lindsay or Senator Chizek, which one is going to close? Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I would like to address, I guess, a couple of issues. Senator Chambers has...it's a fairly valid point, but we have to look at what the answer is and I think that's what...maybe what we ought to be concerned with. He talks about redistricting. I think there's been attempts to do that in the past that have not been successful. If that's the answer you want, be prepared to vote for it, and if that's what you want as far as if that's what the members want, to risk the redistricting which may end up in some of your...in some of the smaller population districts and losing your judge, then, you know, I guess that's the answer. Our thought was that there has not been an increase, although cases have continued to increase, there's not been an increase in a judge assigned to Douglas County in 18 years. The figures, I think, tell you how far the cases have increased that if...if we have the same number of judges with a 100 percent increase in felony cases, with 108 percent increase in civil cases, with a 30 percent increase in domestic relations cases, the same number of judges just simply aren't going to be able to handle that. I think we have to have an increase in judges if we expect to have the judicial system operating efficiently. The alternative is we're going to have some people released. We're going to have some people sitting in jail without bail. We're going to have some people who aren't going to get their civil cases heard for a couple years or longer and then probably sitting waiting for the backlog in the appellate system after that, or the alternative is that maybe redistricting is the answer and if that is the answer, then we're going to have some of you people here explaining to your constituents why you lost a district judge in your district. I think this is a reasonable answer to a very, very serious problem. The enormous caseload just has to