

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen, on the bill.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the court, I think there are a few things that I want to address here. Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the court...that's exactly what I said to you, yeah. Thank you. There are several things that I want to speak about this morning and one of them is addressing what did and did not occur through the court and the amendment that we voted on in November. It is so easy to take an amendment like this and use it as a forum and so on the forum you attack 775, you attack mammograms, you attack rural health, you attack the criminal justice system, you do all those things as a forum. And the system isn't pure, the system isn't 100 percent correct and it never will be. But the problem is, is what do we do if we don't pass a bill like this? What do we do if we don't address the backlog and you're going to have a system here where we're going to continue to go on and have increased filings and they projected the filings to occur that we're going to have in the next five years almost 1,700 filings into the court and that filings are going to continue to just swamp the court. It will drown the court. And the headlines tomorrow will read things about the peon court and the big shot court and it will talk about all the problems about how this court's going to be lazy. That's fine, but what we're talking about here is the substance of how do you deal with a problem? And the real problem in this state affects every one of you and every bill that you pass and everything that you're going to do in the normal course of events in your life. And you're going to have disputes. So how do we solve those disputes? Do you go out on the street corner and yell at each other? Do you go out and have fistfights? No, you have an orderly system, albeit not perfect but that's how you resolve your disputes is in this court of law. And you have to have some system to review what that court of law did to see if it's fair, see if it's unbiased. Humans make mistakes. Senator Chambers will be the first one to jump up and tell you they all make mistakes, will want to characterize that that they make a mistake every time and that's not true. The whole court system here is not on trial. What we're addressing here is the problem of a backlog. And Senator Smith, Senator Beyer, Senator Johnson, all will have cases that they think needs to be heard in this system and we're going to wait for two years. And if we don't do anything, it's soon going to be three years. Can you imagine waiting for three years? Can you imagine that wait? It's intolerable. It's