

frustrating to me as a policymaker. It's frustrating to me as a citizen to watch everybody who has some dispute go to court, as if that's going to solve the problem and, in fact, it probably won't. And the best thing about Senator Landis has brought to us as a mediation act is something that is working in other states but it also makes a lot of sense for Nebraska and the reason is that we do have limited resources. And, quite frankly, we have good and decent people. Nine times out of ten, cases that walk into my office, if the two parties would have sat down within a few hours of when their dispute had arisen, calmly, rationally talked it out, were made aware of the various outcomes in costs that could have occurred, those cases probably are not going to go to trial. Now they go on and there may be a case filed in the case of a divorce or something but they have been worked out. They don't have to go to trial. Going to trial is one of the worst things that can happen. People's positions are frozen. Their costs increase. You burn bridges. Personally, whether it's within a family, whether it's within a community, things like this that allow people to sit down and work out their disputes, every lawyer in this state, I don't know if they are or not but they ought to be 100 percent behind these sorts of things, because it takes the load and the burden off of the system but it also is a better way when two people can sit down and agree to what the outcome will be, it's much better than having a judge or a jury tell them this is the way it's going to be. And you can often customize and put in enforcement sorts of measures that you like, because, as I understand it, Senator Landis, if I'm wrong, you can correct me, if the people come to some understanding, they will enter into an agreement. A stipulation will be submitted to court, will have the full effect of a court order. It is as if they went to court and got that order, the trouble...or the benefit and the beauty of this is it's their order, it's one that they agree among themselves. Senator Landis, I commend you for bringing this to us as a legal system. The legal system needs this sort of mechanism. It needs to take people off from running at the first sign of a dispute, hiring their lawyers, getting at odds, cementing their positions and spending a lot of money. The idea in the legal system is not to spend a lot of money, it's to decide disputes. And the best that those disputes can be resolved without a lot of war, without a lot of bridges being burned, ultimately the system is better off, if the system is better off, the State of Nebraska and our society in general is a much calmer place to be and things, calmer heads will prevail. The other good thing that I like about this bill is that it