

SENATOR MOORE: Well, then Nebraska qualifies under those 40 with the present farm mediation concept, I mean...

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes, we would.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay. Well, the question I have is the fiscal note that starts up six regional centers, I mean, is that the tip of an iceberg, so to speak? Or...I mean, is a quarter of a million dollars...how much do they spend in Hawaii? I mean, I guess I'm wondering, is a quarter of a million dollars or really does it take several million dollars to make this work? Does a quarter of a million dollars make it work? Does it just get the foot in the door? And what is the ultimate goal we have to set this up statewide? How much is it going to cost to do it right?

SENATOR LANDIS: There are, I think, probably the largest program is the Ohio program and there they use an interjection of mediation in practically every level of litigation. And it's very tightly related to the entire judicial branch. Off the top of my head, I thought it was a \$2 million ticket for the State of Ohio. This program is not nearly as ambitious as that. That was a thoroughgoing use of mediation in all levels of litigation, at all levels of government and tying it directly to court...being able to go to court. Here, the program is meant to be one of the opportunity of creating some plans, some programs, some pilot projects, and also being done on a grant basis so that unless there is a community center out there who will undertake this program, the program doesn't take off. You've got to have some local muscle there, some local effort before you can, in fact, have a program, there's got to be a local-based program that wants to do mediation, that inquires and asks for and gets a grant. Could there be more than six grants in five years? The answer is yes.

SENATOR MOORE: Senator Landis. Senator Landis, is that grant...does that pay the total cost of the center?

SENATOR LANDIS: What it does is it starts the economic viability of the program. At the heart of a mediation center will be largely volunteered mediated ser...mediation services but overseen with scheduling, notice provision, getting locations, that kind of procedural functions will have to be played by someone. And there will also be a sliding scale of fees charged to people who use mediation as well.