

courts to decide, but I think we have an exposure here that we need to recognize. The ADA applies, the hearing-impaired are under the ADA. The visually-impaired are a similar type of a group with an impairment. They have a whole division under the Department of Public Institutions. They spend somewhere over \$2 million a year on services for the visually-impaired and I would, for one, obviously, would not want to take away those services. I think they are in need of those. But here we have, all we have for the hearing-impaired is a commission, yeah, with eight employees but we don't have a whole division spending millions of dollars on services for the hearing-impaired. They simply want to integrate into the current system which they can't do because they can't communicate because we don't have in place the sort of things that are envisioned under this legislation. We have others with disabilities out there covered by the ADA but we have a whole division for the developmentally disabled, we have the mental health division. We have got for everybody out there that has got a disability much more than we're talking about for the hearing-impaired. The hearing-impaired are the one group that we have not treated fairly in the State of Nebraska. I know there's a lot of talk going on here but we're talking about a problem that I'm sorry, we're all discussing about how expensive everything is, we're doing the budget fight the first bill out, but I heard at this hearing some people come in that talked seriously about some problems, about some deaths that resulted from the fact that our state doesn't provide the communication for the hearing-impaired that allows them to access services as any other citizen would in the State of Nebraska. Any one of us that might have a need have the chance to go in and request services and if we have the right and the need for that services it's possible we can get them. But if you're hearing-impaired, you can't even communicate that need. And what Senator Crosby is talking about is let's take a step forward and try and make that happen because if we don't, the potential is there for a lawsuit that we'll all be sorry about down the road and in the meantime there are people that lives are at stake at because of this very situation that we're talking about. And I'm sorry, but I'm getting a little angry because the discussion here has totally gotten away from the need that we have. We've taken away the exposure that I thought was extreme that could cause us problems in the long run. That's out of the bill now. I think it is in the best interest of the State of Nebraska to move forward with the legislation. You have your concerns...