

SENATOR LINDSAY: Absolutely, we do. And that's, as I was mentioning in response to Senator Withem's questions, when we're dealing with judges we also need to be looking at the Judicial Resources Commission and determine how it is making its decisions and require that it, I think, require that it tell us about allocation, not just when a vacancy occurs but keep us up on an ongoing basis that we can see trends. But one of the important things of doing that is exactly as you said which is making sure that we've got some uniform requirements on voting...or on reporting.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. The Chair recognizes Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President, I'll try to be brief, but I feel some obligation these days to get up and talk about judges' bills, whatever their ilk. I'm supporting or will support this piece of legislation. I think Senator Lindsay has demonstrated to the body and I think there's a wide concurrence that there is need for an additional juvenile judge in Douglas County. There may be need for additional judges in other areas and for other purposes in the State of Nebraska. But Senator Lindsay did mention the Judicial Resources Commission, a subject near and dear to my heart. I have noted that there are at least two bills dealing with that subject, one introduced by he, one introduced by Senator Beutler, so I'm sure you'll all have an opportunity to hear about that as well as individual needs later on in the process. I have never, and do not intend to oppose legislation on the floor of this body which will provide adequate access to the courts in any part of the State of Nebraska. That I think is at least one of the important elements who are for our consideration and there are several ways that you can be denied access to the courts. You can be denied access to the courts simply because there is such a large backlog that it takes you months and months to get there and have a decision by a judge or you can be denied access because a judge is not available in any time frame that is reasonable or convenient to you. I believe that this bill will assist in providing access to the judicial system in Douglas County, especially for juveniles, a very sensitive and important area in which I believe we need to provide adequate access and will support the bill.