

change, but for some counties that's a huge burden, and so you've got to be careful with that, but the underlying feeling is that a smaller county who doesn't use this is going to look and say why should we send our money for Omaha and Lincoln to use? And if I was in Omaha and Lincoln, I'd say why should we pay in a tremendous amount of money so all of our money can go to some smaller county? And you have this discourse in here and the feeling that my money is going to help somebody else and, in the long run, what we're really after is establishing some safety net or some some system whereby we can, in effect, have for insurance. And I treat this bill as an insurance policy against a county having a catastrophic capital case, but also realize that Douglas County has a problem too and those are conflict cases where their public defender may have, there's two defendants, or their office may be a witness, or they may have some other problems that they have conflicts that they have to pay private attorneys to come in and represent indigent defendants. That's about \$800,000. So, obviously, Douglas County and Lancaster County has got a recent case where that's going to happen to them is that you've got some risks. And if you have these people on staff, you're able to allocate the resources and I think do a better job of meeting all the needs. It's not going to solve the problem, but for a smaller county like Richardson County, it has been an extreme nightmare. I suggest I'm going to, Senator Vrtiska, with your permission, I'll yield you the rest of the time to talk about Richardson County just so we get that at the front because that is the most glaring example. This amendment I would like to have adopted. I think that it presents the policy of state funding, takes away the county contributions and, Mr. President, I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Vrtiska.

SPEAKER WITH THEM: Senator Vrtiska, you have about six minutes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I appreciate the time, Senator Kristensen. I guess I just want to spend a few minutes talking to you about the issue that, and I did send out a sheet around to indicate the costs that have been incurred by Richardson County because of the earlier Ryan trials back in 1985-86 and the current expenses that are going through with the Lotter-Nissen trial. Those figures that you have are a little bit misleading because actually the expenses incurred earlier are now in excess of a half million dollars, and on the Lotter-Nissen trials that they're now in the process of, they're over \$200,000 so you can see for a county