

that you can really solve two problems at once. You can limit the exposure in some counties, and, Senator Beutler, to the extent of should we put in some guidelines or could we put in some directions that one of the factors you consider is the financial ability of the county? I have no problem with that at all. I think, you know, that's a legitimate factor. You hate to put things into dollars and cents but, in effect, what we're trying to do is find the counties that need the most help, but it's real tough to know, you know, the levy on some counties, depending on their value. That lower levy may not be all that many numbers of dollars either, so I hesitate to do it on levies because you may have a county with small value and that their levy sets at that 35 or 40 cents, but the \$200,000 could easily put them up over that limit and so we've got to be careful not to tie those hands. So I would suggest and I'd be willing to accept some change or amendment that would factor in the financial health or condition of the county in determining...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...their need for this. Obviously, though there will be counties like Lancaster County who on conflicts that this could be of extreme assistance to them because it could save them large amounts of money and, to that extent, even Douglas County, I think they'd be interested or they should be interested I think in wanting to participate in something like this, that when they have large conflict cases, there may be, you know, for a few hours of work or a few days or weeks of work be able to save them some good amounts of money and, to that extent, I think that would be helpful to them as well. So I want to make sure that we focus this debate back in. We're talking about this amendment that would take it to state funding and I'd be willing to take some amendments or changes that would narrow it if we want to do so. I'd even be willing to look at striking, if you're uncomfortable with that cash fund, in the future taking out that delayed, just take out that section...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...if you are uncomfortable with that.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, probably too many attorneys talking so I thought maybe I'd interject here and ask