

Are you bothered at all by the fact that these very small counties out there are essentially being bailed out of some of the services that they've traditionally been obligated to provide by this kind of legislation? I mean, are we not encouraging inefficiency out there when we should be tightening down in terms of making these counties more efficient?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, Senator, my response to that is is that if I was creating a system, I would not create counties that small, but their names are engraved around this building. They are engraved in the Constitution, and if I have to wait until I can cement their names over, because that's what I think is going to have to happen or change the Constitution, that's not only true of indigent offense, that's true in indigent medical care, that's true in so many of our service deliveries, and my frustration is that, yes, if we didn't have all those smaller entities and we had larger tax bases, we could do something about that they'd be better able to handle some of those things, but I live in the world that they are there and I can't do anything about them, and to that extent, I can't pick and choose which ones don't have those serious offenses and I can't let them twist in the wind and that's what is going to happen.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah, but my perception is this, and just, you know, tell me to what extent you think it's not a correct perception, but my perception is that in a bill like this you can argue that Lancaster County is going to have an occasional conflict of interest and that kind of thing, but, by and large, Douglas and Lancaster County are going to take care of themselves. I mean they aren't in here asking for this bill and...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, I think they are.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...let me finish and you can cut it apart, but...and so the people who really need help are the small county attorneys here and there who do not have the expertise within their own offices for a number of these specialized kinds of cases and so, therefore, most of the money is going to go out to small, inefficient counties here and there around the state, and...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.