

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I am all in favor of helping a lot of these places in terms of economic development, in terms of a lot of things they need that are progressive in nature and can build up these areas, but, at the same time, whether you're talking about school districts or too many judges in a district and now indigent services, they will not take action to restructure to make the delivery of these services efficient. And I'm getting more and more reluctant to vote for these kinds of bills without having on the other end some showing that inefficient structures and inefficient ways of doing things and units that are just, frankly, too small to handle any sort of odd kind of bubble that might, financial bubble that might come along, encouraging this and leaving it in place and...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...I know you're dealing with a structure that exists, but somehow this has to be addressed.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I'd like to recognize in the north balcony 25 students and their instructor from University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Would you please stand and be recognized. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUDD: Mr. President, colleagues, I'm very sympathetic to what Senator Kristensen is attempting to do today. I understand the fears that have been expressed from the floor. There's always been that discussion about the possibility of a murder case, a murder taking place in a county with 1,000 people in it and that county having to endure the legal expenses of having to prosecute as well as defend that particular individual. And it probably makes a good case for looking at how counties deliver their services and whether or not it is cost efficient to have counties that size out in different parts of the state, but those counties that do have a small population are very proud and they want their own self-determination and, with it, being able to control the expenses that their county incurs for snow removal, for roads, public assistance, the things that provide the kind of help that people need, or they come to expect from government. I'm reminded of every year it seems in my county when we have a bad winter and we have a lot of snow removal and how it affects our budget because when you have a lot of snow removal it costs those counties a lot of money or the cities a lot of money to remove that snow and there's a little bit less in the budget that year and that's