

the county that's opting out, if one of your counties opts out, and compare it to the number of people in the state, and whatever that percentage is that's the percentage of the state appropriated funds that are granted directly to your county rather than going into this program which is an insurance policy for all those counties that agree to be a part. To me, it seems imminently reasonable, why should not a county be able to opt out, if they're satisfied with their system? But if you say that obviously there's no opting out if there's no reason to opt out, if...if...if all you're going to do is lose money by doing it, then it's a disincentive to opt out. I think you ought to have a free option to opt out. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hall, followed by Senator Robinson, Hartnett, Chambers and Kristensen. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise in support of Senator Beutler's amendment. Thank you. I rise in support of Senator Beutler's amendment to allow for the...basically, I could refer to my other speech where I thought we were on this amendment, Senator Beutler, to begin with. But the issue here is one of, look, if we're not going to use this, if we're going to make it available to everyone throughout the state but we are not going to use it in various counties because the system is currently in place, then you ought to receive the portion of state funds that you're eligible for. They're paid in by everyone within those counties, and in the case of Douglas County and Lancaster County probably to a greater extent because that's where, merely where population happens to be centered. I believe that it's a very appropriate amendment in light of the proposal. Maybe not as it currently exists because the funding is half a million dollars, but what happens when the funding reaches the 5 million dollar level, the 6, the 7, the 8, 9, whatever it may be. In Douglas County alone the budget for the Public Defenders Office is close to \$2 million a year, \$2 million on an annual basis. Is the state going to start funding that should this commission, with the powers and duties that it's given? I would respectfully disagree with Senator Kristensen in terms of the issue that is raised by Senator Lindsay with regard to the powers that are enumerated in this proposal. And clearly there very likely will be a burden that's levied on those counties. I mean we are dealing with the Kristensen bill as it was introduced. I mean we're not off the amendments. I know we've adopted one, and