

that's what you are after. If you don't care about the quality of defense, you can take that political posture and say, well, I don't think we ought to give those people any more legal defense, and I am mad at those liberal judges, and those liberal county attorneys, and I am mad at everybody who let's them have defense, but sit down and look at the reality of the world. The reality is that those people are entitled by (inaudible) to the United States Supreme Court in a law or in a case that's now well over 35 years of age, that these people are entitled to that defense. And so if we are going to have to do this, you want to try to prevent as many errors as you can because the errors are what get expensive on appeal. So if you have somebody who is in a pool in here who does this every day, day in and day out, you have less chance for errors. You have less chance for successful appeals, and so this bill really has two good qualities to it. One is you have a better quality of representation and ultimately less cost to us because there are fewer appeals, but also acts as an insurance policy for at least in a number of cases, and, you know, if we are talking about a pool of four or five counsel to do that, they probably can cover from two to three cases a year. Now that is not all the homicides in this state,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...but it is a good number of them, and they can also be of some resource on appeals, can assist doing that. They can take care of some of the conflicts in our larger counties. Now I suppose the other fear that people may well have is that, you know, is this thing going to explode and get out of control. It fits in with our spending priorities, and in the future, this legislature will control the amount of staff and the amount of people that are out there for assistance. And if the Legislature chooses to do more, we will. If the Legislature chooses to rein it back in, we will do that as well, but that fits in and that is the reason you have an appropriations process is to determine those priorities. So I...at this point, the Beutler amendment, although his discussion perhaps will pull over to other issues as we go along all session, I don't believe it is appropriate for this particular amendment. I, again, unless there is other questions, I will not speak again to this amendment, and would urge you to vote against the Beutler amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.