

insurance fund of sort where all the counties can put money into it, and if you want to take some kind of a fund out of the General Fund to match that, or something like that, that's rather what I would like to see to deal with this problem, rather than setting up this whole program that you are setting up here with this piece of legislation. So it isn't necessarily a problem that we have, any kind of a personal problem with any public defender's office, since I've had no contact of any regular sort with the public defender's office, but it is actual how this piece of legislation can work, and I understand some of the smaller counties having problems to pay for these huge bills, and I see Senator Vrtiska's figures here from Richardson County, and it is a huge burden on the people in these counties, and I agree something does need to be done. But I am not sure if it needs to be this kind of a huge solution to what I perceive as only a monetary problem because they do have the attorneys and they don't have the money. And another concern I have is taking the money away from those attorneys in those areas and bringing it into some area here in Lincoln and consolidating, you know, that from some pool of Lincoln attorneys. I think this is legitimate money into these counties that stays within that county with their attorneys, and that's, if you are talking that kind of money, that's a lot of money that they need to keep within that county. Many of those attorneys live there. Their children go to school there. They shop there, and so that is also a concern. So those are some of the areas that I wish you'd kind of look towards and address some of those concerns instead of alluding to some problem...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...with Douglas County senators and their feelings or their defense of the public defender's office, because to me, maybe if that is legitimate at all, it is only legitimate in a very few instances, and I think people on this floor want to help, but we are not really seeing the solution here that we are looking for. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. First of all, I want to rise to oppose the Beutler amendment. Secondly, I want to rise to apologize to Senator Kristensen for taking this as a priority bill. I think what I am hearing, and, unfortunately, from my standpoint is it has become a big versus