

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I guess I'm ambivalent about this bill because I think this is the way we have to go with this bill. I think what we have to do is do the statewide funding of indigent care. The only thing my concern is is that, you know, we are starting another bureaucracy. It is only 500,000 this year, and the word I used a few years ago, I called it "creepism." You know, we creep out, and 500,000 will not do the job, it is like putting a rock in the pond, in a pail of water. It just makes one ripple, but that is not the whole ripple, and Kristensen keeps, Senator Kristensen keeps going out. They are going to go out with riding their white horses, I don't imagine Lincoln, or Kearney, or someplace like that, and the other day is that I think we need to have the people, if we are going to do this commission, these attorneys need to be out there. They need to be one of these in the area, the judiciary out where Senator Matzke is, Senator Bromm is, because the other day we were talking about judicial judges, and Senator Bromm brought up the point, well, in one area of the state, you know, you can't...you don't live in that judicial district, you have got to hire a local attorney. And so I would think that if we are going to do this system, rather than going out from, whether it is Kearney, I think Senator Lindsay has an amendment coming that goes out of Kearney, but they...maybe that the public defenders, if we are going to set up this system, are out there in that part of the world, so they understand the local system, rather than coming out with all this expertise, I am from Lincoln, or I am from Omaha, and I know everything. So I guess I think we need to do this, but I have some concern about what we are doing, or the way that Senator Kristensen envisions us doing that. There is a lot of unanswered questions of how...you know, who is going to get the priority as far as these cases are concerned. Is it just...you know, do you have to have somebody that serves on this commission or you are the head of the commission that the area...that that's the area that people go, but I think we need to move this way, but I just have some concern about the system as it is enveloped in this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, you are recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, it