

didn't realize I pushed my button again. One of my friends must have done that, I thought Senator Chizek had left the body a few years ago. (Laughter.) The issue is merely...it really goes beyond the appropriation because...and at the same time it doesn't, because I believe it was Senator Hartnett who earlier, on the Beutler amendment, touched on the issue of a half million dollar appropriation today. Senator Kristensen pointed out that we are spending approximately \$10 million in indigent defense and that runs the gambit for capital cases, for all types of indigent defense, for juvenile indigent defense. As I read the amendment, we talk about providing indigent defense services and it means, under Section 4, legal services provided to indigent persons by an indigent defense system, and six, it says indigent defense system means a system of providing services including any services necessary for litigating the case by a contracting attorney, court appointed attorney or public defender. We go on to say that an indigent person means a person who is indigent and unable to obtain legal counsel as determined pursuant to the rules of the Supreme Court. What we're doing is we're saying that, on the one hand, here's what the definition is for purposes of indigent defense, what the system...an indigent defense system is and who is indigent. Those...the last standard is spelled out and is one that's currently allowed for. But we go on and say, through discussion of this proposal, that because of the limited resources that we're going to establish, on a case-by-case basis, those who get services and those who don't. So some, I guess, indigent defense is more important than others. And I understand that except for those counties that currently provide indigent defense at their own costs. And we're now saying that the state is going to pick up this cost, we're going to pick it up, to begin with, at the price tag of a half million dollars. We're going to establish the staff and the office that will undertake that. And, in addition to that, we're going to give them, through Sections 9 and 11, the commission and then the chief counsel respectively, a laundry list of duties that, for the most part, have little or nothing to do with direct indigent defense. And the argument being that somehow we need this information to allow for the establishment, I believe what is meant is a uniform system that is dictated by the state and that causes concern for at least the county that I represent with regard to the indigent defense that they've had in place and that the property taxpayers in the county currently foot the bill for. The issue with regard to what we spend today and what we spend with the passage of this bill, I would argue, is we go from spending 10 million to spending 10.5 million, that