

brought up that point and Senator Kristensen responded. That's exactly the problem that they illuminated when they talked about the failure to fund. Senator Kristensen said the Legislature has never funded that district public defender system. Why do we think that the Legislature is going to fund this system when it doesn't fund the one that's in place now? That's the whole point, I think, that we've got to take a look at. It does no good to set up a bureaucracy and then give just enough money to allow the bureaucracy to exist but not enough money to do anything. If we want to do something I think we'd be better off funding that district public defender system, put the money up so that...and require counties to help participate in it. We got a system in place, we just don't want to fund it. I...that's my fear here is that we're going down the same road where we're going to have yet another thing that the Legislature has not funded. The propensity in the past has been to not fund these types of things. So I think bottom line we're going to be in the same position a couple years from now when maybe not Richardson County, some other county will be in here saying let's create another commission because the last two we created didn't get funded. And I think that's a bad start, that's why I think the bill continues to need some work. I'll be voting for the Kristensen amendment, but I do think that's pointed out the major flaw.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. There are no further lights. Senator Kristensen, would you like to close on your amendment?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, I would. Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. Obviously there is a lot of things being thrown up hoping that something will stick here. But one of the issues, and Senator Lindsay touched on it, the trouble is he just didn't go far enough. The reason that you didn't fund this system is that it's a public defender for everything, that's juveniles, misdemeanors, and that would take a tremendous amount of money. The Legislature doesn't have that. This is a targeted approach, this is going to do something, this will save property tax dollars because you're going to have a salary out there instead of counties paying by the hour for individual attorneys. It's the best way to do this, I got to tell you it's sharp, it's to the point. The trouble is that those public defenders are out there, that have a comfortable little job, don't like it, or at least a couple of them. And the problem is that they're instanced in their own little kingdom up there.