

continuing education for defense lawyers. I just don't think that's a very good policy, particularly if you're going to have...it does eliminate a mandate, but 10 hours, and Senator Chambers or anybody else can tell you that has been involved in the system, 10 hours of continuing legal education is hardly enough even just to keep up with what the Supreme Court cases are and you really don't want to be striking those sorts of standards in there and I suppose what this could do is we could come in and the next amendment might raise it up to 40 or 50 hours and the debate will be leveled there. This is a type of system that's worth looking at, but it goes away from what the direction of this bill is intended to do and, with that, I would hope that the body would reject this amendment. It really would take 71 percent of the counties in the State of Nebraska, force them into entering into contracts, entering into agreements with other counties, and if you want to force county consolidation, you may do this and think that it's a great step, but I'll tell you it won't work and, effectively, you've defeated the intent or what the bill will ultimately try to accomplish. If we want to change the focus here that this is a supplemental indigent defense, you know, I guess I'm not (interruption)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...the name, but at this point I really don't think that this amendment is one that I can support at this point in time. Perhaps later if I get more chances to digest it and see how it might fit into the system, but I really cannot support it and would hope that people would defeat this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Would like to recognize in the north balcony there are 50 fourth graders and two teachers from Northside Elementary School in Nebraska City from Senator Wehrbein's district. Would you please stand. Senator Reutler, on the Lindsay amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I'm not sure that the Lindsay amendment, as it's structured, is exactly in the form that I could support it. It goes a little too far in a couple respects, but I would like to say that I think Senator Lindsay has perhaps hit upon a path to a compromise and an ultimate solution on this particular bill because it does envision an additional element I think, of