

defending this type of case. I suggest that this is very consistent with the intent of LB 646 and does not go away from the intent at all. It actually enhances it and I think gets us closer to the intent. As Senator Kristensen has described, the thrust of the bill, at least after his amendment, is to provide a resource center, to provide a center where resources and the types of cases that have been mentioned, are laid out in his amendment, is to provide those services. That's...and that may be a concern because it does strike some of the intrinsic stuff, the things that are not necessary to the provision of legal services, it does not give a broad grant of authority to the commission, rather it whittles that down to doing what the stated intent is and that is to provide legal services to counties who are burdened by an unplanned case. So the funds that the commission receives are going to be used for those purposes rather than for studies and for statistical data gathering and for planning improvements to the public defense system and lobbying the Legislature and trying to increase its existence. It goes down to providing services which ultimately translate into dollar savings on behalf of the counties. So I think it's entirely consistent with that, with the thrust of the legislation. I think it starts us down that path where we have some of these things that are planned for and it's easier for the counties then to do their budgeting and it provides them with a safety net in those cases where something that not only was not planned for, but could not have been planned for, it does provide that safety net in those circumstances. I think the amendment goes a long way towards improvement of the bill and I would urge that it be adopted.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Bromm.

**SENATOR BROMM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the Lindsay amendment. Let me say that there are some things about the amendment that I believe need fine-tuning, but I believe, after hearing the debate on the bill, 646, so far today that there was a lot of fine-tuning left to be done in the bill as well. The reason that I am supporting primarily the Lindsay amendment is that I think that it brings to the table an issue which we have to address and that is that in our own local areas outstate we've got to be willing to become somewhat more organized in the way we provide our indigent defense. Some of us have. Some of us have taken the steps to place a public defender in place. Some of us have been willing to talk to other counties about cooperative efforts. The best part about