

this bill to try to change it in the direction of taking care of the problem and more precise, a more precise surgical procedure than just kind of going at something and hitting it with the hammer when really all we needed to do was to give some money somehow to the counties, some type of mechanism in place to the counties to be able to afford these cases. So I do agree with Senator Lindsay's amendment to strike Section 11 of Senator Kristensen's bill and will be listening for further amendments at some of these other areas that I think go above and beyond the problem that we have here that we're trying to take care of. Thank you.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Lindsay, would you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Wesely, members, I do have to mention Senator Chambers just snuck out and, as he did, he mentioned that he saw the coalition developing of conservatives against bureaucracies and, as he left, he said, I give Senator Witek to you, I am divorcing her now that she has formed this coalition with you. So I'm very uncomfortable up here now closing on this. I don't know if I'm uncomfortable standing in the shoes of Senator Chambers or being so closely allied with Senator Witek but something here is just not right and we know that that's...especially when Senator Witek is quoting Senator Hall in support of her position. The...again, what this does, I disagree strongly with Senator Kristensen that this in any way whatsoever cripples the bill. The language remaining, as I mentioned in response to Senator Hall's questioning, very clearly retains the position of chief counsel. It retains the authority of the chief counsel to act. It retains the commission's powers. It simply does not cripple the bill. It does not do anything close to it. What it does is it takes away the specific functions that are given to the chief counsel and then the language that will remain besides the nine different subsections of things that the commission is empowered to do, it retains Section 10 which states and I quote, "The commission shall appoint a chief counsel. The responsibilities and duties of the chief counsel shall be defined by the commission and shall include the overall supervision of the workings of the various divisions of the commission." It very clearly says the chief counsel can do all these things, but it leaves the commission with the flexibility to state those things because, ultimately, the commission is going to be accountable to us when the commission comes back here asking for more money, which it