

this bill came from. If you look at the language that is the recommendations for that, that report suggests creation of a commission on public advocacy. Sound familiar? It's right in the bill, that it should among other things, it should provide legal services which would be appellate representation, capital litigation resource center and major case resource center. Sound familiar? It's in the bill. Developing standards and guidelines, all these other types of things that Senator Kristensen says are no longer around but planning improvements to the system are the first step in that direction towards implementation of this plan. If we intend to do that, which, by the way, I support. I think it's a good thing, but the primary thing that they point out in this report is on page 112. So you're all familiar with it. The complaint is funding. The average cost per case in 22 states with a population similar to Nebraska's geographic region, similar type of system was \$235.50. They say this means that Nebraska, at approximately \$160 per case, contributes fewer resources per case than virtually any other state that shares significant demographic characteristics. Bottom line, they want to get the funding up and that's, like I say, a good thing. I would prefer to come in, let's take over the funding and let's do it. But instead we're going to be doing it on a piecemeal basis which I think is going to come in then in a system that is inadequate, unwieldy and expensive and not accomplishing what we want it to do. So when we talk about planning improvements, those improvements are there. They're already there in black and white for each of you to take a look at and what the primary thrust of those is is money. As I mentioned earlier in a prior debate, they talk about caseload standards. And if that's not the intent of this bill, let me ask that of Senator Kristensen, let's make it clear. Senator Kristensen, could I ask you a question?

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Sure.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Is it your intent that this commission should have any authority to establish standards and guidelines for qualifications, compensation, work loads...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, Senator, we took that out.