

to support this amendment. I guess it's been...my concern is that we're going to put this big umbrella over the state, over public defenders. And I guess I've always been concerned; we have a good public defender system working in our county, it's part time. One of the recommendations of this indigent care task force was to have, you know, the public defenders in all...practically every county in the state where down to where...be 350. So this simply, to me, is a protection. And I think Senator Kristensen said he supports, he said, this will not have any impact, I think we can go back, on the caseloads, the public defender in my county. So that...I would simply rise to support the amendment at...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Lindsay, you're recognized to close on your amendment. Senator Kristensen, for what point do you rise? Senator Kristensen, I'm kind of debating what to do here because Senator Lindsay was recognized to close.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I was also trying to figure out what to do on my way back, and that's the reason that I did that. I was talking to Senator Lindsay and I didn't have the opportunity to speak. If people want to...if you want to rule that he can close, that's fine. That's fine with me. I was just trying to find some way to speak. So, I'll abide by the rules.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Maybe I can do this, what I would do is yield the first two minutes of the closing to Senator Kristensen so he'll have an opportunity to speak. Maybe that will...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. I was going to make an offer to you that I'm not sure I have a problem with this, but I want to make sure that legislatively you're not saying here that they can't have those requirements and guidelines for their own attorneys. The way this is drafted looks like that's for everybody. I want to make sure, for their own staff attorneys, that they can have guidelines, qualifications, caseloads, all those sorts of things they can do, you really don't want this to do to public defenders. With that, I'll tell you what I'd like this to do with this