

this cannot, in fact, save money. If anybody would take a look at...and, of course, I have to refer to Richardson County, when you take a look at it costs \$500,000 to prosecute individuals down there, when you are paying attorneys by the hour, and you have to bring them out of the cities where they have expertise in order to deal with these kinds of cases, of course, it is going to cost a lot of money, and I realize it is going to cost a half a million dollars, but that case alone down there cost a half a million dollars, and we are talking about a half a million dollars here providing assistance for approximately 15 cases. So to say it is not going to save money is unbelievable to me, and, obviously, one of the reasons that I decided to take this as a priority bill because I felt that that was certainly what it was going to do. When I heard Senator Witek say the county boards can decide who they are going to assign to a case, that's the most ridiculous thing I ever heard of. County boards can't make that decision. The county judge or the district judge makes the decision who he is going to appoint. They don't ask the county board. They don't ask the county board how much they are going to charge. They tell how much, when they get done, how much they owe them, and they have to end up paying it. It is just that simple. So, you know, when those kind of remarks are made, they are certainly not very accurate and I think people have to understand that. You know, I took this as a priority bill because I thought it was important, and I still think it's important. I guess I'm really embarrassed and upset a little bit because it took this much time to get the issue resolved and so many different amendments, but, on the other hand, it is good to have good debate. It is good to hear all sides. It is good to have people enter into the discussion to certainly get things that they think that may not be the way they ought to be, the way they should be. But I think we've probably spent an inordinate amount of time on this issue, for whatever reason, I am not sure, but, be that as it may, we're here and I certainly am going to support the advancement of this bill because I think it's not important just to Nemaha...Richardson County or southeast Nebraska, but it is important to a lot of counties in Nebraska to have this kind of assistance. We were just talking about why don't they appoint a local attorney to go in and defend these cases? You have to understand that when you come from a smaller community where the attorney in that town is also a friend of everybody in town, it is pretty hard for him to get up and defend some absolute, positively known criminal who has committed a murder, and then be able to go downtown or be able to meet his friends and people