

we can intelligently reallocate those resources from areas that maybe don't need them. And I don't have the statistics. I'm sure when Senator Beutler gets into it...keep in mind, I'm...I'm not a militant on this issue, I'm pretty much a soft-core guy on this issue, that the real militants on this issue are Senators Beutler and some of the people on the other side of the room. But the numbers are there indicating that we do, in fact, need these but the Governor has told us we need to find other ways of finding the resources. We've heard from the leadership of the Bar Association that they want to participate in this process of reallocation, yet each proposal...and you may think that all of these amendments up here were just examples of poor bill drafting, and if you know Senator Lindsay's staff and my staff, you might have been justified in thinking that. I see Mike standing over there and Michele over here listening a little bit. That's not the case. Each one of these amendments were good faith efforts on our part to say to the leadership of the Bar Association, come on now, you know we need to reallocate, you know we don't need all of the judges in areas of the state where they have traditionally been before. Give us a hammer in which we can be assured that we're going to get this reallocation process done. Each one of those was summarily rejected, I mean, even to the point...and I see Senators Beutler and Wickersham and Senator Lindsay have been involved in even more discussion about what we hope will be an amendment that will ultimately find favor with the majority of senators on the floor, but each of those have been rejected. It's been a long, frustrating, difficult process. You heard some of that begin to come out this morning. You're going to hear more of it come out on this particular bill here today. This amendment was in some ways kind of a lighthearted way of poking fun at the Bar Association for their recalcitrance in movement on this issue. I'm really not very lighthearted about it anymore because I don't think there's been a lot of cooperation coming from that arena. With that, having kind of raised some of the issues I wanted to talk about, let me withdraw this amendment and get on to the process of, hopefully, finding the right amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. The amendment is withdrawn.

CLERK: Madam President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Brashear. AM2119, Senator. (See page 2083 of the Legislative Journal.)