

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I would like to engage Senator Wickersham in a bit of conversation, if I may.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wickersham, and I am not being judgmental, although it might sound that way in the questions that I am asking. What Senator Beutler had stated previously about certain areas having difficulty justifying the number of judges they have, based on caseloads, and other areas getting judges, when they may not need them, which leads to an imbalance. Are you in one of those areas that might be deemed vulnerable in terms of perhaps losing a judge if there is a shuffle that would be undertaken?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: My legislative district lies within the 12th Judicial District. Senator Beutler, even when it was composed of more than just the 12th Judicial District, indicated he thought we could do without at least one district judge.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So there would be some vulnerability in your area?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: If Senator...if Senator Beutler had his say about it, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now if this study comes back that you and I had touched on, and you had explained in a bit of detail, is completed, and a determination is made that a view similar to that of Senator Beutler's is appropriate and a judge should come out of your area, would you fight against the removal of that judge?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator, I will be very hard-pressed to make the appropriate decision.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that I can understand. I would expect you to fight against it so I don't...that's why I said I am not being judgmental because we do try to represent the area we come