

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Dierks announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature: there are five fourth and sixth graders from Niobrara School here and their teachers. They are in the north balcony. Will you stand to be recognized, please. And Senator Cudaback announces that there are 25 fourth graders from Shelton Public Schools of Shelton, Nebraska, and their teacher. They are also in the north balcony. Will you also stand to be recognized, please. Welcome to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Wehrbein. There is no need, Senator. Yours is the last light. The Chair recognizes Senator Avery to close.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Madam President. Again, I think on...just for Senator Maurstad's condition, I think we will vote on this one, but I think it's important and I, take heart, I see the importance and the need, but I also think that there's resources there that can be utilized. You see what the caseload is of the Supreme Court. It's drastically declined compared to what it was in '92. I think they, for the next year, if they reallocate some of their resources, they could help in this process. There's already, as I understand, some or one or two that are crossing over to provide some joint support. I think they can do that with additional people. This doesn't cut. It just eliminates what would be an increase in personal services, personnel. This body gets criticized enough for adding government workers. It doesn't...again, it does not decrease the staff that is already in existence. By a reallocation process, we can get by. We can make sure that these cases are handled. I think they will make sure that that happens. If they're going to take care of the cases, they need to reallocate their resources. When you have a decrease, the question, one other question, would be is what type of caseload should seven judges have? According to this, 236 cases as of September '95. I know there's a backlog of cases. I think it's important that we ask them those questions and delay this increase in personnel for one year. Have them come back and justify it. Maybe, as Senator Kristensen said, they could come back and justify the need for additional judges and then we can look at it appropriately. But right now I don't think the dollars are there and we should support this amendment to eliminate or keep from adding three additional employees in the Court of Appeals and have the Supreme Court reallocate its resources to provide that support. Thank you.