

own choosing rather than going through the court system. As you are aware, a number of our judicial officers, a number of the Supreme Court justices around the country, including some of the Supreme Court justices on the Federal Supreme Court, have been indicating to us that we need to alleviate, in every reasonable way, the workload and the caseload on the court system, that it is becoming overwhelming, that justice is too slow and, therefore, justice is not the kind of justice that we should be getting. So everybody has been exploring, including the Bar Association, a number of ways that would be...that would do that and would also be as fair or fairer to the citizens to whom the justice is provided. The Bar Association, the National Bar Association a number of years ago said one of the ways we can do this is through arbitration. But they were very, very careful to say that the arbitration should be voluntary. So when this arbitration act was proposed it was entirely voluntary in nature, that is nobody has to arbitrate unless they choose to do so, unless they choose to do so. That is the basis of this act that is being presented to you today. It is an alternative to the court system. It is basically the idea that the parties to a dispute, or to a possible dispute can get together and they can say instead of going to the court system you choose an arbitrator and I'll choose an arbitrator, and those two arbitrators will choose a third arbitrator, or some such fair method and we'll resolve it that way. That particular system, I think has three benefits to the citizens of the State of Nebraska. The first benefit is that it can deliver faster justice. If you go through the court systems, of course, your case is docketed along with all the other different kinds of cases that are being presented for resolution by the courts. You take your place in line and when the court system gets around to it it takes care of your case. But with arbitration you can proceed to go ahead and choose your arbitrators and you can work on the case and resolve the case as quickly as the two parties so choose. It is faster in that regard. It is also faster in the sense that not all of the procedures that lawyers have to follow in courts necessarily have to be followed in the arbitration process. The two sides can agree. The arbitration process can be different and, therefore, in some cases, can be faster. So that is the first benefit to the citizens, that it is faster justice. The second benefit is that it is possibly, in many cases, better justice in the sense that in the court system you have to use judges. The judge who is there is the one