

Omaha is the first metropolitan city up in the high population. Sarpy County is getting there so we have some designations that are fast being outgrown from what is the normal in this Legislature. So with that I support the amendment. I do not think we are bypassing the system. We are improving the system. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Many times we have stood before one another and talked about a particular problem in a particular legislative district or in the urban area or the rural area and pleaded for unity. Sarpy County has come to us with an amendment and I would like to ask Senator Withem a question or two.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would be happy to respond.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Withem, what will this amendment cost the state? What is the fiscal impact.

SENATOR WITHEM: On the State of Nebraska there is no fiscal impact. All of the money that comes to fund this program will come from additional contributions from the employee, the deputy sheriff employees in Sarpy County with the matching contribution from the board which frankly will probably come out of some sort of collective bargaining agreement that they end up having with the men and it will probably ultimately come from the men also.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Do the deputies themselves want it?

SENATOR WITHEM: Deputy sheriffs have brought this problem to us and, yes, they are supportive of this.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator Withem. Colleagues, I cannot see any reason, other than contrariness, not to be supportive of this amendment. Here is a county that has a particular problem. I know that our Omaha Police Department and our Douglas County Sheriffs have better fringe benefits than Sarpy County and they sit side by side. I wouldn't like to be in the position of spending thousands upon thousands of dollars to train a man to be a sheriff or a deputy sheriff only after going to that expense to turn around and have him say, well, I can do a lot better just across the road by going to work at Douglas County or the