

in four Nebraskans will be victims this year, victims in various degrees, granted, but those who are victims of...families of victims of murder, or victims themselves of serious debilitating injuries, or after the trauma of the injury itself goes through more psychological, emotional injury. And when they go to court, if indeed it is one of that 50 percent that is even caught, where the criminal is caught, and then that other 50 percent of that 50 percent, which actually goes to trial, the victim is not informed, is not treated as well as the criminal, and, in fact, often goes to court to find that their case has been plea bargained down to a lesser degree, or indeed been dismissed, and they walk away feeling furious...

SENATOR MOREHEAD: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...and not understanding how the criminal justice system can be more caring for the criminal than for the victim. I want to speak again. I hope that I have a chance again because I want to point out that the victim-witness program is, by far, the most effective, the most efficient of the two programs that we have in Nebraska law. It serves far more people. And, while we look at the programs that have been established in Lincoln, Kearney and Omaha, these programs have extended far beyond these borders to North Platte, Chadron, Beatrice. It is a volunteer program. It is the most cost-effective of the two programs that we have in Nebraska. The hub of the victim-witness has revolved around Kearney and Lincoln, who send out people, who train people in other parts of the state, who send out literature for other parts of the state.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Your time has expired.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you. I hope I have an opportunity to speak later.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: There are no other lights, so if you wish to put on your light again, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I will. Thank you. Can I speak again?

SENATOR MOREHEAD: There are no other lights, but every senator has the opportunity to address...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Sure.