

why child abuse cases have increased this dramatically over the last few years but they have. Now we have two options that we can decide. We can either say, well, the amount of child abuse has risen in recent years and the Legislature really doesn't care much about it and we are just going to continue to have these judges overworked, and as a result when you have overworked judges and not enough time in a day, some of these cases just aren't going to be heard. So you know what the end result is? The end result is that we have abused children in households that will continue to be in those households. They won't be pulled away from the parents that are abusing these children. Now all the child abuse cases go through the juvenile court systems in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy County and they were set up to deal with these special problems that juveniles have. Now, they deal with the criminal section, when a child gets involved in a criminal infraction and then they deal with the child abuse cases in situations where the family members aren't taking adequate care of those children. Now there is some additional information in these packets, there is some additional information in these packets that provide when the detention hearings...the amount of the detention hearings, the adjudication hearings, the deposition hearings and the review hearings. Now, I think the juvenile court judge system in Douglas County has done an adequate job in explaining how their caseload has increased over the last few years. My belief was that they really had to justify to me why they needed an additional judge. Now, the juvenile court system, as it has come before the State of Nebraska...or as it has come before the Legislature, we voted on twice whether to have an additional juvenile court judge in Douglas County. Now, I can't recall any individual in the Judiciary Committee as well as any other individual on the floor of the Legislature that ever voted against the passage of the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, Senator Abboud. (Gavel.) Will you please hold your conversation down so we can hear the speaker. Thank you.

SENATOR ABBOD: I can't recall anyone voting against the bill and it is tough to vote against the bill when you have child abuse rising at a phenomenally high rate in the State of Nebraska as it is rising throughout this nation. One other additional point, if you look through the packet, dealing with the review hearings. Now, we have had a great