

you're next, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: I listened with interest to Senator Lynch's speech and thought it was very good. I wonder how the transcriber will put E-e-e-e-a-a-h into the record, how it will be spelled, but it will make a most interesting transcription. In my estimation the time is up. Whatever fair amount of time this body has given the bench and the bar to get their act together is up. I came here 14 years ago, Chris started, I think, 12 years ago on this agenda, and the record has been basically one of moving the bench off of its position of guised negative stance in the form of neutrality, supposed neutrality, in fact they have been forthcoming, I think, over time. That is not true of the bar. If we cannot do this, if we cannot readjust workload assignments, when they vary, among our practitioners, by over 100 percent, where some people are working twice as much, or at least the work that they have before them is twice as much on an average basis, if we cannot readjust that, we won't be able to readjust anything. And if we can't readjust anything, then the cost of government will escalate for everyone. It is part of the hold harmless mentality. And the hold harmless mentality means that everybody is going to get all of the money that was spent in the past, plus whatever happens in the future. You want to know where 2 percent, or 5 percent budget limits come from, it comes from watching the Legislature who, when the record is clear there's a 100 percent variation between workloads, can't reassign them, or won't reassign them. That is not the level of performance that the public expects from us. And as far as we're concerned this body often works with others to do their best to harmonize interests. But in this case you're past the fourth quarter, you're past the sudden death penalty play off, time is up. LB 1059 should be passed, and we should let all parties know that there is ultimately an end to the patience of the Legislature in stalling tactics, because that, in my estimation, is what the bar has done over time in this issue. And this body needs to say we give a reasonable amount of time and effort, and a reasonable amount of momentum towards compromise and study. But that can't be used ad infinitum, ad nauseam to run the time out forever. If we don't drop the hammer some time, everybody will learn that the Legislature can be pushed into a study mode forever and not face up to its responsibilities. I support LB 1059.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Crosby,