

wrongly adjudicated and that Social Services would like the county attorney to call and meet with them about it. Well, that is terrible. The Social Services didn't know for two years that we had elected a new county attorney. That is why I am standing up here and saying, folks, the way that we spend money, we are dealing with children, and I am going to stick...yeah, I will work with you, Senator Scofield, but I would like to have southwest Nebraska examined from top to bottom and what we will find there, hopefully, we don't find other places.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Senator Morrissey. Excuse me, an amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend by striking the reference to the Southwest District.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, member. I appreciate Senator Haberman's point and understand his concern, and my feeling is that the situation would be better handled not tying our hands to simply looking at southwest Nebraska. I recognize that is his area of the state and that would be the problem he would like to see addressed, but that problem is found in southeast Nebraska and northeast Nebraska and northwest Nebraska and Lincoln and Omaha. We have got a problem everywhere you look in this state dealing with our handling of children, our handling of different social services, the foster care system. That is not a unique problem to any particular area of the state, and in fairness, we ought not to particularly look at one area without recognizing a statewide issue. Now we can identify a particular area. We could focus in as a priority in the southwest area. I don't have any problem with that but this language in this amendment would leave us only to look in that and I think it would be inappropriate not to at least try to understand how it would relate to the rest of the state, how the rest of the state has a similar situation. And so I, for one, cannot support language that would not recognize a statewide problem when it is one and would rather see us proceed in that fashion. And I would be more than happy to work with Senator Haberman and whoever else on further refinement of this proposal. But, at this point, I just simply feel that we are too narrowly looking at the problem and I just want to reemphasize again we are well aware of it. It is a very important problem but it is one that needs to be tackled