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fees in light of the best interests of the child becomes a very weak argument. And only under compelling circumstances in my mind would that outweigh the needs and best interests of these children. During this debate I've talked...I've read you cases that happened during that brief period of time, that five-year period, that said that...in which we gave total administrative authority to the department and all the problems that ensued and things that happened to real people in real situations, and the frustrations of the people in the system. We need to have that check and balance, we need it. We can still do what the department wants; we can do what this bill does in part and say the department makes the placement, but we need oversight. Judges will not be able to do any more than to bring the people back to court and talk about it but not do anything about it if there are problems. We've made a gummer out of this section of statute for the judiciary if we do this. We also don't start the process with bringing everyone to the table to go through ideas and suggestions and get buy-in from the parents and all the parties involved. Negotiation is the way to go. I know a lot of people have been muzzled on this issue, and I feel bad about that, but that was a decision of other people in the process. And that's going to make a problem for those of you who are seeking information when people have been told they can only tell you one party line.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: But I think if you go to the history, if you aren't able to talk to people or they now, because of various people who won't allow them to speak, can't tell you, go to the history. See what it tells you. See what happened when we did this a previous time. It was not good, not good for the people in the system and certainly not good for the kids. We need to step back from this. I urge you to support my amendment and give the judicial or juvenile justice experts in the state, people who are at the field level the opportunity to work a compromise on this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Chambers, on the Thompson amendment.