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LB 598

was created last year, to look at the issues that were raised on evaluation and makes that a part of their work. There is no fiscal note associated with this bill or shouldn't be. And we think that this accomplishes what would be in the best interests of the juveniles before the court, assure some of their basic rights, keeps the court in the position of having oversight and yet gives the department the administrative ability to make the direct placements. And with that, I would yield some time to Senator Dwite Pedersen.

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** Senator Dwite Pedersen, you have about eight minutes, if you care to use it.

**SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. And thank you, Senator Thompson. I guess, at this point, I could go through a whole litany of thank-yous because it's been a lot of work put in by a lot of people to come to this agreement. Need to be honest with you, I haven't read the amendment; it was just handed to me, signed it, but we've been working on it for some days. The administration has agreed with the...Senator Thompson and Senator Suttle, and we've come to this agreement. I'm asking that the body support this amendment, and then we can go ahead and move LB 598. Thank you.

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Pedersen, your light was on next; did you wish to use that? Senator Pedersen waives. Senator Aguilar.

**SENATOR AGUILAR:** Thank you, Mr. Cudaback. Just like, for the record, to thank Senator Pedersen for allowing me to prioritize this bill. And I'd also like to publicly thank Senator Thompson for all her hard work and Senator Suttle. There's never been any question or doubt that what their ultimate goal was, and that was the ultimate welfare of the juveniles and the placement of them and I want to thank them for their work on it.

**SENATOR CUDABACK:** Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Senator Thompson, there are no further lights on. Do you wish to...Senator Thompson waives closing. The question before the body is, should AM1956 be adopted to LB 598? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the Thompson amendment, AM1956, to