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of child abuse and adult abuse registers. The licensing process includes a more detailed look at the family's home, including standards such as ratio of children to adults, space available for the child, and sanitation. After the licensing or basic approval process is completed, a home study is done prior to the placement of a ward of the state in the home. As we weigh the decision of placing a child with a nonlicensed family member or a licensed nonfamily member, it is most often in the child's best interests, and far less traumatic, to place him or her with their family. While training of relatives can be helpful, we do not believe that it is essential to the quality of the child's care by that relative. The relative providing foster care deals only with the particular child's circumstances and issues, and doesn't necessarily need to know about all the broader range of circumstances and issues that other foster parents who care for unrelated children face over a period of time and in caring for a variety of children. By removing the licensing training requirement for relatives only, we believe, and this is from the department, more relatives will become licensed foster care homes rather than approved foster homes. In addition to allowing them to claim IV-E funds, it will mean that relative homes will have a broader assessment required by the remaining licensing standards. Although the bill would allow the department to waive the training requirement for relatives, it would still be the goal of the department to continue to encourage relatives to take advantage of these training opportunities. Again, this bill, this waiver that we're talking about, as far as waiving the training requirement, would be for relatives only, and would not be given to all relatives. The federal regulations which allow states to use the waiver are clear that it must be considered on a case-by-case basis, and must take into consideration safety issues and the best interests of the child. If the determination is made that a specific relative indeed does need the training in order to provide safety, to meet...in order to provide safety and meet a child's needs, then the training requirement would not be waived. I would ask for the Legislature's support of this bill. Would be happy to answer any questions that you may have. And again, the bill came out of committee with a committee amendment. With the committee amendment, the vote was 7 to 0, unanimous on behalf of the committee. I support the committee