

shall be appointed at the commencement of the proceedings as opposed to at any stage in the proceedings. This is just for the juvenile's sake so that he will have legal counsel representing him. Number 5 is probably the most important to me other than number 3 with the six month review but number 5 is extremely important. Once again, we as a Legislature will be telling our courts and the guardians that are appointed what we expect of them. It is not mandatory but it lays out kind of how we feel we want the guardian ad litem to visit the child within the first two weeks. That is not mandatory but we're asking them to do that, laying a policy statement out and then after initial appointment after that first two week visit every six months we are requesting that they visit the child and see how things are going so they can better represent the juvenile and provide that the guardian ad litem can also file petitions for the juvenile or, excuse me, on the juvenile's behalf so I would ask for your support of this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I just rise to support Senator Kilgarin's amendment. We hear over and over in judiciary of children of this nature where a guardian ad litem is appointed and nothing happens, and nothing happens, and nothing happens and it is the same old story over and over and what Senator Kilgarin is attempting to do is to have something happen, to have a guardian ad litem at least do something so that they know that this child is having some attention paid to it and also have the case reviewed every six months so that it just doesn't sit there forever and nothing happens. I support her amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kilgarin, a couple of questions if I may just to get this straight in my own mind.

SENATOR KILGARIN: Yes, sir.

SENATOR BEUTLER: One of the provisions is that the guardian ad litem must visit once every six months. Is that correct?

SENATOR KILGARIN: If you turn to page 16 of the bill it is not "must". It reads...let me just quick read it, it says, "shall make every reasonable effort to become familiar with the needs of the protected juvenile which may include one visitation with the juvenile within two weeks after the appointment and once every six months thereafter." Again, it's laying out our intent, what we as a Legislature feel