

bring a judge, an attorney who is serving as guardian ad litem with the department, I don't know if that is my responsibility solely. I think that those people should be able to communicate without a state senator having to be present at every meeting. I think there needs to be better communication, and I think the message is getting across that these judges and these attorneys who are serving as guardians ad litem and the department need to be communicating better, and I'm hoping they will. But I feel as if we're heading in the wrong direction if we kill 182 at this time. I don't know if 182 has the support to pass this year, but I commend Senator Coordsen for bringing this issue to head, because I think it's about time we started talking about a situation that exists in this state that should not be tolerated.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Chairperson of the General Affairs Committee, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I stand also to oppose Senator Wesely's IPP motion. Listening to what Senator Rod Johnson had to say, I could stand here and almost repeat his speech to you. I have had a number of instances in my district where I feel that there has been inappropriate action taken on the part of the Department of Social Services on behalf of juveniles, young children. Actually, when we talk about juveniles we used to think of like 10, 12, and 11-year-old kids, what I'm talking about here are children much younger and I think it's a very sad state of affairs, and I feel exactly as he does, where I'm having to be asked to intervene in so many instances because of what is considered to be lack of the appropriateness of the way they reacted in the placement of these children, in the way they handled the case. I was sitting here and I was reading the paper, the position paper the Department of Social Services and while I was reading all these little cases through here that they had put out I thought to myself, my golly, this could get me really confused because I could sit down and I could enumerate, on the other hand, a number of kinds of situations which were exactly like this, only it was being directed at the department because of the lack of appropriateness in what they had done with the children. Again, I agree with Senator Johnson. I think it's an unfortunate state of affairs when we have, I guess it's a bureaucracy which is so huge, so vast that there is no way even we can get to it, it seems like, to make it become responsive. I just had a letter in the mail yesterday