

we have to wait until we get deadlocked on an issue before either side will ever decide that we need to sit down and talk and compromise and do what is best...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...for those we were set up to serve. I find this terribly frustrating. I've been frustrated over and over in my district with this issue, dealing with cases, with problems the department has mishandled in the eyes of everyone except the department, and trying to reach some kind of resolution, and we never seem to. We get answers back, I get letters. Once in awhile I get a letter from the Director of the Department of Social Services justifying why they made the decision they made. But it still is contrary to everything that in my mind says this is the way...they're wrong, this is the way it should have been instead, or at least it wasn't accurate in what they should have been doing. Once in awhile they admit they made a mistake, but that's as far as it goes. So I oppose the IPP motion. I don't know, as I said, I tremendously support 182 in its current form and maybe we need to work on this bill a little bit. But I'm going to stick with this because this is the only way we're going to make any progress, Senator Wesely, in this area, and it's crucial that we do this.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The member from Imperial, Senator Haberman. Senator Crosby on deck.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I am going to wait to unload about the mental health team and some of the other problems we have on the bill. But right now I'm opposing the indefinite postpone motion. As I understand, all of the states in our immediate area place the responsibility with the care and placement of juveniles with the juvenile court judge. In addressing the unconstitutionality letter that we have before us, I am assured that we can fix what is brought up and what is wrong by changing a statute, as if they're doing it in other states, I'm sure we can arrange to do it here. Now in the position paper of the Social Services on LB 182, dated March 10, which you have in front of you, it was prepared by the Director of the Department of Social Services. And, as has been stated before, it's a case involving a two-year-old who had been inappropriately spent six weeks at a locked psychiatric hospital and was given as an example of inappropriate care. However, upon questioning about this case the department admitted that it