

ruling. It will pit, again, the judges against the Department of Social Services in a very strained effort, hopefully, both trying to accomplish, again, those similar goals of helping the children, but very different philosophies and goals in certain instances. Yet at the same time that can be converted into perhaps a healthy difference of opinion on those cases of difference, if we could have a dispute resolution process that can work and is constitutional. You see what I'm saying? I'm saying you're going to have a fight and a difference between the judicial branch and executive branch on occasion. I don't know how often. This bill will make it worse, much worse, because it will clearly give the green light to judges that they have the right to go ahead, and then their review is by other judges, so it's definitely an open door and they should feel pretty comfortable in moving toward it and through it. So, in addition to the unconstitutional questions I raise, you can't have the judges determining executive branch action. The budget is involved, the Constitution is involved, it's inappropriate, it's wrong, this bill is not the answer to the problem. That's why I filed a kill motion. But it does at least raise the issue and one that we need to address. I think a better solution, and I made it...somewhat referred to earlier, is to amend the bill with some review by an independent group of individuals where, if a judge disagrees with a department placement, this review can occur over in the executive branch, not in the judicial branch with the judges, but with an independent group that isn't biased on the judicial side and isn't necessarily biased on the department side, but some group who we can go to and deal with this matter in a fair fashion, with some expertise involved, not just anybody but somebody whose got a background and an ability to deal with these types of very complicated, difficult issues. I can live with an amendment in that regard. And I know Senator Smith is drafting something to that effect. I'm willing to work on that, I already said that in my opening on the kill motion. In addition, we don't have enough staff, we just simply do not have the people that are needed to look out for these children. We have, on a monthly basis, average monthly basis, over 3,000 children that we handle, that we place, over 3,000 of these cases. I'm not sure if that's...is that every month, or is that...on the average a month. An incredible number of children are affected by this. And I'm not sure what we've got, I don't see the figures right now for how many staff are involved with handling this important function. But I have, again, legislation...