

the Wesely summary of the bill, pertaining to Section 12, when it comes to funds the state has federal funds available to use for this purpose and the counties do not. So this is another plus for the legislation. Now whenever any one department or state agency has a problem doing something their first reaction is we need more staff, if I had more staff I can solve this problem. I've heard that year, after year, after year. I do not think that having more staff is going to solve the problem. I will agree that possibly we do need some more staff, but I seriously doubt the \$20 million fiscal note that is with this bill. I have found out over the years that any agency or department that is opposed to legislation, the first thing they do is say if you change this situation, if you change this legislation, if you do this, it's going to cost millions of dollars and we have a prime example before us of that type of maneuver. Now we have said on this floor we're not necessarily pointing the finger at who is responsible, but I'm going to read for you, with the time I have left, a report from the courts pertaining to a case, and it states, as a side, however, this court is disturbed by the fact that despite lack of sanitary conditions in the appellant's home, which rendered the dwelling unsuitable as a place to raise children and provide the partial basis for termination of appellants parental rights, DSS failed, they failed to take any action with regard to the younger child, M.T., Christine McCauley of DSS, who is in charge of supervising PMC's case, testified that to remove M.T. would have caused more problems than it solved. This inconsistency...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HABERMAN. ...is particularly disturbing since the practical effect was to ignore the best interests of younger children by leaving him exposed to extremely unsanitary conditions. How DSS can claim that a home is unsanitary, they're not meeting the department's minimum standards for one child to live in, and yet virtually sit idly by leaving another child in those same conditions is beyond the imagination of this court. So we have a deeper problem that is here on the surface. And I'm sure with the passage of LB 182 we can solve these problems and help those children. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Motion on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Smith would move to amend the bill.