

of office, if they do a poor job in dealing with our children. That cannot be said for the Department of Social Services. If a director isn't doing a good job, or an individual that is in the bureaucracy, there is no accountability. The accountability does not exist. That is why I'm supporting Senator Coordsen's proposal in LB 182. Now this particular amendment, I understand Senator Smith does have a deep concern for our children and I do appreciate her approach and maybe there will be some area of middle ground, but this particular amendment is virtually the same as we currently have in our existing system in regards to accountability, and that is really what we're talking about, accountability that our judicial system does have in the current system. I would urge the rejection of this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I second what Senator Abboud said. He said it a lot better than I could.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to yield just a couple minutes of my time, the first two or three minutes to Senator Smith.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. I would just like to clarify or maybe I need to ask some other people who may be in a position to tell me better than I know, isn't the reason for this bill being brought to us...maybe I should ask Senator Coordsen, George, isn't the purpose for the bill being brought to us the problem that is perceived in the fact that right now the Department of Social Services is autonomous in its decisions?

SENATOR COORDSEN: That's right.

SENATOR SMITH: Then why are we, all of a sudden, raising and talking about...rising and talking about the fact that this would be unconstitutional for me to say that we have a review panel, an independent review panel made up of other people to review the decisions that they're making, if right now the Department of Social Services supersedes, evidently, the