

think, is a little expansion of their authority, the State Review Board. I will try to answer any questions if there are, but I would ask for the advancement of this bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Discussion on the bill. Senator Nelson, with Senator Schmit on deck.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I do want to encourage you to support Senator Hartnett's bill. And, as he said, the amendments, I think, make it a better bill than it was to begin with. This thing goes back to our same discussion and so on that we had on LB 182 yesterday and some of the problems that we are encountering and the Foster Care Review Board also encountered the same prior to this or this legislation. They were not able to officially take part in the foster care review cases and it was felt that maybe we're giving another organization or another group some more power and someone else to intervene but I fully feel that they are capable and they need to have their input on these cases, particularly with foster care children. Also, the concern was brought up, the present administrator is, in the minds of most of us, exceptionally fine and what would happen if a new administrator came in and maybe he or she may not be so competent or he or she would not be as knowledgeable in the foster care review cases. I guess that we just have to take that chance and so on. But I, very much, approve of the bill and do support it and it is needed. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I rise in support of LB 603. We are well aware of the work of the Foster Care Review Board. We are aware of some of the excellent work they have done and the fact that they are strong advocates for children. We know that they must appear from time to time in court and the county judges, I am told, according to one of the judges out at Platte County, rely upon them. And then, as I understand, there will not be very many occurrences when they will appear but when they do need to appear it's a very necessary instance. And so long as we are going to have this kind of an agency that is out looking at out-of-home placements and the Foster Care Review Board makes recommendations, I think they ought to be able to make them to the juvenile court judge. And so, therefore, I support the bill very strongly and support the work of the