

about occasionally there have been decisions made about when to remove a child from a home, and because of the legitimate statement in the Family Policy Act about our desire to leave children in the least intrusive and least restrictive settings and whenever possible to keep families together, there have been isolated instances of decisions made where a child has been left in a home and what I think most of us would agree is under questionable circumstances, and, in fact, has in some cases clearly been at the expense of the child's best interests. I think that is partly a problem with training that has not necessarily always taken place adequately within the agency, which I think we're going to try to address through some of the budget recommendations that we've made, and I've brought specifically this language to another bill before the Health and Human Services Committee and I don't think anybody objected to it. In fact, many people who weren't absolutely certain about the bill we were going to attach this to were strongly in favor of this language. And so I'm asking that you help me suspend the rules on this so that we do not let another summer, another fall go by waiting for perhaps that particular bill to pass, where a child might in some instances be inappropriately left in a family where that child's emotional and physical development might be threatened. I think this sufficiently clarifies the language in 637 so that there shouldn't be recurring instances of children inappropriately left in families where clearly their best interests aren't being served. I'd be happy to try to answer questions, and if there are no questions, I'd simply ask for you to suspend the rules and adopt this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before recognizing Senator Wesely, Senator Hartnett announces some guests in our north balcony, 60 fourth graders from Bellevue with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're pleased to have you with us this morning. Senator Wesely, further discussion.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Scofield did refer to this amendment. It was adopted by the Health and Human Services Committee as an amendment to LB 662. It was brought to us at the hearing and, as she stated, I think most people were in agreement that it did help clarify in a positive fashion concern about the Family Policy Act. It does recognize one of the concerns I've had and others have had about that act and does, I think, further leave the notion and clarify