

bill was unconstitutional, that we can't give back to the courts this kind of power. An opinion written by Judge Icenogle, to me, countering that opinion, I thought was pretty persuasive that you could argue that it was constitutional. So the constitutional question, I don't know where we end up on that, if the bill goes through, if there will be a challenge or not a challenge, or constitutionally we have a problem or not a problem. It looks to me like you could argue both sides. Again, this bill also points out the need for more caseworkers. One of the big problems in this and the last bill we had by Senator Pirsch is not enough people working with these kids and these problems and I would argue again for the need for more staff to work with these children. One of the things we all agreed to in our discussion was that whether the judges or the department have the authority, we don't have enough people working on these problems and enough staff to meet the need. So, ultimately, that could help solve the problem more than this legislation, to have adequate caseworkers and there will be legislation that attempts to do that. I'm basically, for the record, expressing concern and apprehension but also expressing a desire to cooperate and cooperate is what we need to see more of in this issue, more communication between the department and the judges, more understanding between the judicial branch and the executive branch, more effort to meet the true needs of the children, less conflict than we've had over the past few years. This has certainly not been good for anybody I think and maybe this bill will help resolve it. I contend that in the original version of the bill it probably would have made that bad situation worse. I think we're a long way with the amendments we adopted toward hopefully not having that happen, and instead of making that bad situation worse, hopefully we'll make it better. That's my hope anyway. And so with that, I don't plan to oppose the bill and most likely will vote to advance the bill and hope that we continue the communication and cooperation that our amendments have started. This is the first time in a long time that we've had that sort of communication and cooperation and it's the start maybe of a good thing that we need more of. And so with that, I commend Senator Coordsen and the others that have been involved, Senator Smith, in trying to work out these...this bill and this problem and hopefully it will be the start of a new approach to working together on this issue.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the advancement of the bill? Seeing none, Senator Coordsen, anything further?