

evidence to corroborate these things, but yet when we put our investigator out there he was able to find some things that was able to corroborate these allegations. I think we need to continue with this investigation because we need...I know that the justice system has to take over in the prosecutorial matter. That is fine, I don't have any problem with that. The problem I have is why didn't they do that in the very first place? Why didn't they continue with that investigation? Why didn't they push forward with these things? They did not. They backed off. I think we need to push forward with these. I don't think we should let that certain group of citizens out there that maybe doesn't necessarily have a strong lobbying voice so that they can get their voice heard in this state. I don't think we necessarily need to leave those people out of the justice system in this state. Our system is set up to react justly to all citizens of the state. I think we need to investigate that system and see why it did not react to that and how we can make changes to make sure that it doesn't happen again. I think this money is very necessary. I think we need to continue as an investigating committee. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please, followed by Senator Chambers, then Senator Landis.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, I would rise in support of the resolution and for increased support for the committee's work in examining the Franklin case. As Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee I have worked long and hard examining the issue of child welfare and have spent a great deal of my time in my twelve sessions in the Legislature trying to work hard to protect the children of the state. The work of the Franklin Committee has been extremely valuable in examining how the system we have in place is broken down. In this particular case, but also it points to larger issues and problems that we are finding some solutions to that will hopefully help our children far into the future and let me cite a couple of examples of that. First off, in a matter of hours or perhaps early next week you will consider a bill, LB 720, which deals with the caseload of individuals involved in child protective custody, CPS workers they are referred to. Also foster care families are reviewed by these caseworkers and we would up the number of workers so that they would meet the standards set nationally for the amount of work that should be allocated to these workers to do their job. We have found a serious problem