

responsibility to make sure that child is safe. If you do not have adequate workers making sure that the child is adequately protected, then, of course, I think we are not carrying out our responsibilities. The lack of staff, the case loads that are too large are hurting our efforts to protect children. In one of the letters that you should have received from Children's Hospital, which I passed out for you, goes through what happens as a result. This hospital and others that work with children are very frustrated with the problems they've had in getting child protective custody workers into the situations that they deem violent to children. They are frustrated by the lack of response by the system, but they recognize the system is overcrowded. It is overworked and unable to respond, not that they are insensitive, but that they simply don't have the ability to respond. I think furthermore, once we add the workers, hopefully through this legislation, we will also add the training and follow-through that we need to make sure that the work that is done is as very good as is possibly can and I think there have been some concerns about that, so it's not just an effort to increase the staff and the workers, but also we should increase their training and skills so that we don't have a high turnover and also that these individuals know their jobs well and do them well. That is a concern as well, but that's a follow-up later on with this legislation that we'll need to pursue. With that, it's a very simple issue, very simple concept, although a very important problem and I'd ask very much for your support despite the cost involved to do this. I think our children demand and deserve better than what they've received through the system at this point and with your support and passage of this bill, eventually, hopefully we will take better care of our children in very vulnerable situations, so I'd ask your support for the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, please, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, my nighttime reading is just a little bit, and it puts me right to sleep, of Will Durant's history of civilization. I'm up now to about the Crusades. One of the stories that is told in the volume that I'm reading now is of a king in Sicily who, as an experiment, decided to bring into the castle 20 newborn infants and it was his belief that if the children were not taught to speak that they would, when it came time to speak naturally,