

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Wesely, in your amendment, lines 16 and 17, you make reference to the travel required to provide timely response in investigation of abuse and neglect, could you explain what a timely response is, please?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, being able to get to a situation as rapidly as necessary to intervene. You have different levels of abuse and neglect, you have those that require immediate action and there you need to be able to get to whatever location you can within a very quick fashion. More generally you have less emergency situations and more time than having to be there immediately, but you do want to be able to get there as quickly as necessary.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Would 4 1/2 hours be a timely response?

SENATOR WESELY: Right now there are children waiting for months and months to get any response, so...

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, now wait a minute, Senator Wesely, do you mean to stand there and tell me that if social services was called on a child abuse investigation or neglect and the children are in danger that it would take months to get a response?

SENATOR WESELY: There are...

SENATOR HABERMAN: If somebody receives a...if they received a phone call in Lincoln from a county sheriff that there is a problem, a potential child abuse or damage, physical damage, it would take a month to get a result or to get an answer?

SENATOR WESELY: In some cases, it will take, in fact, months before people are even...any investigation occurs. If there is an emergency circumstance, if they feel that there is an immediate threat to that child, hopefully, they will get there as soon as possible, but the casework problem is there, Senator Haberman, and they are not even investigating some of these cases for months.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Senator Wesely, the reason I am raising