

there's a lot of good training material, a lot of good training activities going on out there. I believe that addresses in particular some of the concerns that were addressed early on by the Foster Care Review Board and by Voices for Children. I know we've got their blessing on this amendment. With that explanation, I would ask you to adopt what is basically a technical, clarifying amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members, just a question of Senator Scofield. I read the preamble and some of the rest of the material. Can you tell me, Senator, what need this program will fill that is not being filled at the present time by one of the many programs we have which is designed to assist with child advocacy programs?

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Essentially, as you know, Senator Schmit, and particularly probably from your difficult task you face with Franklin, we have a good many programs out there, and we don't have any coordination across the board of programs. We've got a lot of them going on out there. There isn't any coordinated interdisciplinary training effort. But perhaps most importantly of all there isn't a genuine partnership between the communities around the state and state government. One of the frustrations that was expressed at our meeting out at Fort Robinson, a couple of years ago, and were reiterated at the Governor's family summit this fall, was the sense that communities had that they didn't have any place to go and voice their concerns. So this is a coordinating effort, it is a commitment by the state to say we think communities know best how to solve their problems, we know that government at the state level cannot solve all its problems alone. We're going to join in a partnership with communities, give them some money, make some professional training resources available to them, which they will decide what they want in terms of training, and see if we can't build a better child advocacy network across the state, build a better array of services, some of which will continue to be state, some of which will be driven at the community level.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And what percentage of the communities will we be able to reach with this program, or what percentage of the children will it be able to reach?