

March 1, 1990

LB 662

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Scofield's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Scofield amendment is adopted. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Labeledz would move to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz, please. It's my understanding that Senator Labeledz is on her way, but she wishes to withdraw the two amendments that she has, and we'll verify that as soon as she gets here. But is there anything else, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Okay. On the advancement of the bill, Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I think what you have put in place today is a historic piece of legislation. It creates a structure that we have needed in state government for a long time, if we're ever going to effectively serve children and families across the state, and if we're ever going to truly join in a partnership with communities across the state to address some of their problems. I don't need to go into a long dissertation on this floor with any of you about the array of problems that we see out there and the commitment of this Legislature to addressing those. I think by putting this structure in place and the process that we put in place is perhaps more important, in terms of getting to the bottom of some of the problems and really working with communities and perhaps anything else we can possibly do. It is a modestly priced piece of legislation, I think, for what we can expect to have happen. We can address Senator Schmit's concerns about a program that could grow, and grow, and grow, because if the thing doesn't work, frankly, then it's back to the drawing board. I'm not here to tell you that this is the final piece. We've been working on this issue now for almost three years. People have been working on these issues since 1974. I think this Legislature can feel good about taking one of the first steps towards addressing those issues. But I'll bet, given the nature of the number of agencies involved and the nature of well-meaning people on all sides of an issue who care about kids, that we will continue to see some points of disagreement.