

underestimating the cost, the \$75,000. If we can spend 128,000 on the cost model, 75,000 to look at the overall system doesn't seem to be excessive at all, it's probably too little. But, nevertheless, it would be money well spent if we can figure out a way to avoid the sort of problems we've had in the last few months in this area. So I would ask for support for this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? Senator Coordsen, followed by Senator Byars.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I think we recall the debate on General File. We went into this in some depth of the problems that exist out there in the mental retardation area. And we had discussion at that time on that we needed a study of the area of that particular area, and not one that was conducted in one day by a committee. It's one where we need expert people in the field examining the issues and people that know what they see when they see it and are able to make some firm recommendation that we do need, I think, major improvements in this area. And I support this particular amendment that Senator Wesely has offered.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Byars, followed by Senator Dierks.

SENATOR BYARS: In deference to the Speaker, I will just reiterate what Senator Wesely and Senator Coordsen has said and please ask you to support the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, want to stand in support of this amendment of Senator Wesely. I believe that it's just of vital importance that at the time we were discussing this legislation on General File I had, and I'm sure most of you did, an abundance of letters from across the state, mostly from my area, that told lots of heart-wrenching stories about people who are not being serviced and where there are some unmet needs in this area. And it appears that, from the discussion on General File, that there are some inconsistencies out there. And I believe this is an opportunity for us to address those inconsistencies. So I would urge your support of this amendment. Thank you.