

SENATOR HARTNETT: No, no.

SENATOR WESELY: No, right? Well, that eases my concern. I guess I can understand now what is being attempted here but I am again fearful. You don't want to add responsibilities without staff to carry them out or you divert people from other responsibilities, but there sounds like there is some reasoning because there are some access issues in that bill, I recall now, so there may be some virtue to that, but I want to make sure it is clear in the record what we are trying to do here.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Labeledz, followed by Senator Schmit and Warner.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to support the override of LB 1222. If at any time there is any way that I can help the Foster Care Review Board in doing their job, I certainly will be standing at this microphone to help. I can't understand where Senator Hartnett says it will not require any funds because I understand that the bill would allow the State Foster Care Review Board under guidelines to petition the court for a review hearing and to hire an attorney to represent the board at that hearing. This is not the full legal standing that was originally part of LB 603 last year. The Franklin Committee, that I am a member of, as I have said over and over, really appreciates the hard work and the dedication of the Foster Care Review Board. LB 1222 will be able to give them a lot more authority and certainly a lot better system with the Nebraska foster care children. They would give the Foster Care Review Board access to Child Protective Services, the school and police records. The name of the person making the report would remain confidential, and this would allow the board to make more thorough recommendations. So as a member of the Franklin Committee, I urge you to override LB 1222. It is essential to give the board more authority and a procedure to work with that this will never happen again. Especially, I want to tell you this, too, that the whole Franklin Committee was formed strictly because of what the Foster Care Board people brought to us, and I've said this before and I will say it again and again, if it wasn't for them, we would not have the Franklin Committee and you would not be viewing the tapes tomorrow. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit.