

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President, I will be brief also. Senator Labedz made the arguments which I would have made. I want to reiterate again what has been said here before about the Foster Care Review Board. We need to give them the additional tools they need. It is important that they have the standing they need with the court system to do the job that we have assigned to them. I think it is unfortunate, in a way, that this needs to be there, but we did establish the Foster Care Review Board for a purpose. They have demonstrated the reasons why the Legislature was correct in creating the Foster Care Review Board. We now see a way whereby we can further improve the efficiency of that unit. I want to say also that if we do not do this, then I think that we are making a mistake. I think, also, just like Senator Labedz, I do not know how we can pass it without the money, but I think the authority is most important, and I would urge you to override LB 1222.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we are down to a 1,200,000 now, 1,286,000, and then you go below the 3 percent reserve. If you want to override the enabling legislation, then please plan to override the money. If a program is worth doing, it is worth funding. I hope we are about done with overrides because we are pushing it as far as we should have pushed it. There is not a thing left that is not meritorious, including this one. If you pass it, you can expect a deficit. It has never failed. It will not fail this time, they will be in for a deficit. We have the legislation, all we need is the money. The whole purpose of A bills when that was established a good many years ago was that you tied enabling legislation with the funding, that we wouldn't pass obligations, financial obligations onto the state for some future funding, we would fund them at that time. Whatever you wish to do on this one, obviously, you can do, but if you are going to pass it, then fund it. But I also repeat, we are about done, the money is about gone. If we look down two years from now with the 6 1/2 percent growth I thought about that we were projecting for receipts, on those assumptions, we are 5.8 million in the hole for June 30th, 1993, and I hope that in our desire to do much good this year, that you keep in mind you need some money to do a little good next biennium, and you will be making commitments for the state beyond which, in all probability, there will be ability to pay. At some point, you have to stop. This might be a very good time.