

last amendment to LB 1022, and that is we have to establish our own criteria for deciding what programs are either too large, what programs need to be scaled back, what programs need to be eliminated altogether and I have developed four criteria for myself in doing that. One of the first criteria is, is there a public policy reason for the extension of the program? And in this case of the wards of the court program it extended to include individuals in the foster care programs who live with tax paying residents of a district. I felt that the amount of money being spent far outweighed the public policy benefits. For example, if a tax paying resident of a school district were to take an adoptive child into his or her home there would not be the stipend or a relative or a friend that would come and live in a home of a tax paying member, resident. There would not be a stipend from this wards of the court program obviously. So even though there is a difference inasmuch as this is a state program...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...I felt that there was...that difference was not substantial. And secondarily, the second criteria that I look at, and I'll talk more about this on the bill is, are we getting a dollar of benefit for each dollar spent? And I would suggest that the dollars, this \$1.7 million that is spent on this wards of the court program, it does not relate any way, shape or form to actual cost and I think on this issue, on this issue it is the burden of those agencies and subdivisions that are receiving this aid to prove to us in the body that the actual cost, that \$1.7 million actual dollars relate to actual cost. They just don't, they just don't relate to actual cost and I will go into more of those budgetary considerations later. But this is a program that has gone far beyond where it initially was. The committee amendments reflect clearly, as Senator Withem said, what my intent was and I certainly...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...would support those committee amendments. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I couldn't help to think about the comments that, those accolades