

government, but you are comfortable in saying that even though it's a mandate on local government it's nothing that should cost them money.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Because there were several members on the crime...on the Protection Commission representing all these different components, law enforcement and the court system, as well as Social Services and mental health and medical people, that were all saying that, no, this should not be an increase cost for them. Now, I do appreciate the fact that simply telling people they have to function as a team doesn't necessarily mean they'll function real well as a team and we'll have to work with that.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, thank you, Senator Rasmussen. That answers my questions and I rise to support the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Cudaback. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President and members, I rise, again, in support of the bill. I want to thank Senator Rasmussen for her work on it. Some of the questions that have been raised have been appropriate, but I do think a lot of thought went into the committee amendments and the change in the statutes that we're proposing here may ultimately well serve the state in protecting children from abuse and neglect and prosecuting those who would perpetrate such harm to our children, so I do support the bill and ask you to support it as well and if you have further questions we can look at those, but this is an important bill and I'd ask for its advancement.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Before we proceed with debate, I would like to call the senators' attention to the south balcony. Special guests today for Senator Morrissey are nine third and fourth graders from Douglas Elementary in Douglas, Nebraska, and their teacher. And special guests of Senator Peterson are 20 third and fourth graders from Saint Leonard's School in Madison, Nebraska, and their teacher. And special guests of Senator Lowell Johnson are 21 fourth graders from North Bend Elementary in North Bend, Nebraska, with their teacher and a mother, Sharon Capron (phonetic). Would you all please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the chamber. Thank you. Senator Cudaback.