

SENATOR CUDABACK: Madam President and members, I'd like to rise in support of this bill. Very seldom do you get a group that's already in place. The counties, it's the county attorney's responsibility to establish the teams. I was at the committee hearing the day this was discussed and to answer Senator Moore's question, absolutely it is not the intent to have more people hired. The people are in place. You will utilize the people currently on staff. Very seldom do you get this chance. Usually, there'll be a new commission established, dollars involved, whatever. This team must meet at least quarterly. If they do not meet and discuss the issues, whether needed or not, then they were not...would no longer be in place. So I'd just urge you to support this. We need it. Very seldom do you get a chance to have a team like this with no extra costs. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Robinson. Senator Robinson. Does anyone else wish to speak to this bill? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Rasmussen?

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes, Madam Chairman. What this bill's intent is to improve the way that we do, both, investigations of child abuse and neglect and the development of treatment plans, and it is the intent of this bill to take those people who are already involved in these issues in one way, shape or form, to have them function as a team on the basis that they would be more effective as well as more efficient, that we would minimize confusion and the possibility of people falling through the cracks and do a better job in terms of protecting children from any risk or harm due to abuse and neglect. I would urge you to support this piece of legislation. It represents a good deal of hard work by members of the Child Protection Commission and I think it's a good step forward and I would remind the body one more time that there is going to be some more work between now and Select File to address some of the issues that have been raised today in terms of clarification and responsibilities of law enforcement and the Department of Social Services, as well as some of the training issues that need to be there for people to adequately and appropriately do the investigations. With that, I would urge your support of LB 1184. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rasmussen. We will now vote on the motion to advance LB 1184. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.