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came forward, hopefully, be on the way of solving this particular problem. I would urge your support for the amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Wesely next, followed by Senator Conway. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members, I want to stand in support of Senator Withem's proposal. From our perspective on the Health and Human Service side of things, when we had a review of the Department of Social Services' budget, they presented to us our...their recommendations as low priority spending items in their budget. The number 1, 2, 3 and 6 items in terms of lowest priority were all state ward related issues. And so a review by the department has placed this as the first area of budget cuts in their strategic planning process. And so we have, on one side of the equation, the Department of Social Services looking at the issue and saying, this is not something we want to do, this is a low priority. And then you have, on the other side of the equation, the providers of the services, the educational community and those advocates and individuals involved and you have a different perspective. And so it is appropriate, I think, to bring both the Department of Social Services and the Department of Education together. Part of the problem, I think, in this area has been a split between those agencies, a difference of opinion. Bringing them together, bringing the different groups together, discussing this is sensible. I would offer to work with the Education Committee as well in trying to resolve this issue. I think, again, our side of the coin should be working together, and theirs as well, to try and address this next session. And so I do rise in support of the amendment and see that we've identified a problem. It's clearly a problem and needs to be addressed but I don't know that I have the answer and evidently other answers are not meeting with resounding chorus of support so perhaps the best thing is to use the special session to highlight the problem and then to begin to address it in anticipation of action next session. So I do support the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I also rise in support of Senator Withem's addition of this amendment