

case of whoever the child...the custody is given to. But the guardian ad litem is appointed by the court, and unless there's special reasons for doing so, it's always an attorney, and they're usually attorneys looking for work, they're not always attorneys who are particularly interested in kids. I don't think in any sensible sort of way you're going to be able to foist upon these people, if they don't want to do it voluntarily, being a parent to these kids. I think the best that you can hope for is that they will do a good job of representing them in the legal proceedings. And to do that you do have to have contact with the child. You do have to have some necessary contacts with people involved with the child, obviously. But I don't think that the totality of those contacts and the depth of those contacts, in any one case, is ever the same. And I think to try to dictate in statute that you shall have this kind of contact and that kind of contact doesn't make sense. Let me tell you, for example, one area where I think this doesn't make sense. The current committee amendment says mandates, shall have contact with caseworkers, foster parents and other custodians. That's mandated. Well, some of these kids have five or six foster parents, a couple of custodians in different homes, and a number of caseworkers. Does that mean in each and every one of these cases all of those people are going to have to be contacted by the guardian ad litem in order to reach a sufficient understanding of the child's case to represent him well under the statutory dictates that we have here?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think not. I think we're asking and mandating a lot more than would reasonably be necessary in a whole number of situations, and that we ought to leave this as flexible as it was before there was any bill proposed to us but certainly more flexible than what's being proposed by the committee amendment and Senator Avery's amendment to the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Chair recognizes Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler, would you answer a couple of questions to me...for me, please.