

the best way for that guardian ad litem to determine what is in the best interest of the child. And maybe Senator Vrtiska can address that issue as to instances where this has not occurred. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Chair recognizes Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. I recognize...I really don't, at this time obviously, know what the costs would be. But one of the concerns that I have and one of the concerns that's been brought forward all the time is obviously the ability for the guardian ad litem to have some contact with the person who they have control over. There are certainly cases where the guardian ad litem only takes what's given to them and goes in and accepts that, and maybe in many cases we found where the child doesn't even know who his guardian ad litem is. It would seem to me that in order to give the proper care for these youngsters that we think is necessary, that there should be some interplay between the guardian ad litem and the child. Obviously, I'm not trying to drive up the costs and I don't, at this point, know what the costs would be. But sometimes we have to recognize the...weigh the costs against the benefit to the child. Certainly, these children, if they have not had much...have had a tough time in life as it were, and to not be able to have somebody that they can turn to, or somebody who can confide with them makes it more difficult for their life that they're already encountering. So I can't give you a figure on what it may cost. I would assume that it would cost more. But with the amendments that are on here it does leave some latitude and I'd hope that maybe we could work with this and work through it and still give these kids a kind of reasonable oversight that they need in order to grow up to be better citizens of our communities. With that, I would certainly hope that the body could see the advancement of the committee amendments and then get the bill moved on for further consideration. Thank you.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to take one more second to point out to you the confusing kind of dichotomy we're creating here in trying to see the guardian ad litem as both temporary legal counsel in a proceeding and as parent. But here in another part of the same