

basically what the term itself means. When you add guardian to it then you get into the other areas that people have been discussing. That is the extent of what I have to offer to this discussion, but I think that Senator Beutler and Senator Matzke have raised some very interesting points that we should take note of.

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

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. I just rise to indicate that this bill was brought in with the committee amendments for the purpose...and I recognize there are some costs involved and probably some increased costs. But it was brought in for the purpose of taking care of children who were wards of the state and who have obviously had a bad...a bad start in life, and certainly they need to be close enough to somebody to understand some of their problems. And that person, in some instances, has to be the guardian ad litem along with the foster parents and the people who are taking care of them. Obviously, I have to accept the fact that if the Avery amendment is adopted there will be increased costs over what the original bill with the amendments would take care of. And I guess that's a decision for this body to decide if in fact they want to make sure that a juvenile has a personal visit within the first 18 months. And I've heard, you know, they can be in California, New York, Texas or wherever and the guardian ad litem would have to make that trip. And obviously that would be a cost to the county. And if those here feel that that's not in the best interest, if they can make that contact as the committee amendments indicate, by telephone or by other means other than personally contacting them, then I would suggest that you not vote for the Avery amendment. That's a decision that's going to be up to the individuals in this body. I still feel that the bill is a good bill to do some of the things that we have learned about the process. And I would hope that after we can get through the vote on the Avery amendment we can move ahead to the bill with the committee amendments. Thank you.

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

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, I have one thing that I want to do. You all are having your expense checks handed around to you. So instead of having to say this individually to you, I'm