

April 13, 1995

LB 739

SENATOR WITEK: Because it says when families or children, so it's not saying and children, it's saving or children request assistance, state and local government resources shall be utilized to complement efforts, community efforts to help meet the needs of the families or the needs in the best interests of such children. So does that mean a child now can petition the courts alone himself?

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, no. This wouldn't grant that but it's more or less the guiding principles would apply to the courts, not that anything specific like that would be empowered as a result of the bill.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Any further discussion on the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Wesely. He waives closing. The question is the adoption of the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 739. All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to adopt committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: The committee amendments are adopted. Anything further?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, I have nothing further on the bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator McKenzie, on the bill.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body, LB 739 is a bill I introduced, I will be honest, out of frustration over some decisions in cases that had been occurring in my part of the state, but also from examples that I have across the state and I just very briefly wanted to share with you a couple of examples where there seems to be some conflict about whether we strive to reunify children with parents who are obviously not able to care for them or whether we consider the best interest of those children over those reunification plans. And I'm particularly concerned about those that deal with infants and in the very young who are moved in and out and in and out of foster care and then reunified with a parent who has not made the progress that had been hoped for in reunification