

background of where I am coming from on this particular bill. Serving on the Appropriations Committee, it was...there was a request by the Foster Care Review Board several years ago to transfer the review in its entirety of these cases to Foster Care Review Board, and a request for \$600,000 to do that. In looking at that decision and trying to decide what to do, that's when the Appropriations Committee initiated the study looking at the duplication when it came to review cases for children placed out of the home. The report, as was mentioned, showed there was duplication. Now as we walk through this, there is a lot of points that I want to bring up, and probably one of the first ones is to perhaps point out that when Senator Avery says that looking at duplication, and this is to do away with duplication, to me it doesn't touch that issue at all. Currently what we have is a system where DSS does those reviews, and Foster Care Review Board does a random review, doesn't do all of them. What Senator Avery's bill, to me, says we are just going to flip-flop that situation where the Foster Care Review Board does all of them and DSS does just a random review. So, probably my first question is, what is it we are truly trying to accomplish with Senator Avery's bill? Is it that you just don't want DSS doing all the reviews, that you want to transfer that to another agency? Then I think that is an issue we need to address and to say why. If you are saying that it is going to cut out duplication, and in my estimation it doesn't do anything to do that. We only reverse the roles of those two agencies. Foster Care Review Board, a little bit about how I've been I think extremely supportive of it in the past, I was one of those that opened that door, rightly or not, in looking at caucuses for children, which has been debated some whether or not that role, should the Foster Care Review Board should even have done that, but we set up, it started out in western Nebraska where I set up a meeting looking at bringing in all the entities that, basically, had to deal with children placed out of the home, and what some of the problems were, and we're trying to work through that system. We had schools, we had enforcement, we had parents, we had foster parents, and began trying to work through that process. So I guess my point is that I have always been supportive and working towards looking at what the needs and services are, and I think that's what the bottom line of this is, it is for children placed out of the home. We have also...I met with my local boards on a regular basis to look at how their review process really works so I'd have some idea of what that was about, so I think I'm fairly well acquainted with it in a first hand knowledge, and then also look at the fact that I