

a one-room school in Sheridan County, District 131. They are here at the back of the Legislature. Will you all stand to be recognized. Welcome to the Legislature. We are on the Schimek amendment to the first section of the Avery amendment. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I am glad that Senator Schimek raised this issue because I'm inclined to favor the Foster Care Review Board's position. That doesn't mean that the language that we currently have is the best possible language we can use to accomplish what our purpose is. As we go through this discussion, we are going to try, I think what we are going to try to do is get as clear a picture as possible of what we ultimately hope to achieve by whatever we do, then try to find the best way to get to it. Before I start with criticisms of some things DSS people have done with reference to children and their families and botched cases were brought to me and I had to get help from Foster Care Review, I want to talk about this portion that Senator Schimek has before us. Senator Schimek, the reality of this situation, as has been touched out, is we have two warring factions. There are people currently working at DSS who really don't want to be there. They don't want to give up their job, but under a proposal such as this, there would be enough people volunteering to fill this complement of transferees. Somebody would have to have the final say-so as to who would be transferred in case there would be more than that number, and it probably should be the Director of the Foster Care Review Board because that is the person for whom they would be working. So if we were dealing in a vacuum or in the abstract, I think the language that we have could pose a difficulty. This is a one-time occurrence, so I think we're entitled not to look at it in a vacuum, or in the abstract, or lay out what we would consider an ideal way to find the employees who are competent to do the kind of review work that we would envision under this bill. The people doing this work should have experience. They shouldn't be people straight off the street, obtained through advertisements in the newspaper saying this type of job is available, and if you have an interest, come in for it. The reality that we can take advantage of and factor into our consideration is the existence right now of people at DSS who would volunteer to be the ones transferred, and since that is the case, if a final determination has to be made among the transferees, I think that decision should be made by the Director of Foster Care Review. I had, when I looked at that language, because I haven't had