

that might be one way to break through the problem and see if that would work. We could talk about...we actually had an agreement to transfer as Senator Avery is proposing here, at least in one area, to do a transfer like this or to look at doing something like that and see what happened as a result. We talked about dividing cases somehow, prioritizing cases, making sure more people were covered, less duplication, that would be another idea. Another one was to take and have the same case, individual, reviewed one time with DSS, another with Foster Care Review Board six months later, and so they alternated on the same case so they were kind of watching each other in each case. These are ideas that have potential, each one of them has potential. But right now we're choosing one of them and we're saying that's the way we want to go and to heck with anybody else who has another idea is what I'm getting out of this. So my suggestion to you, and one of the concerns that I have with the Avery amendment, we can talk about that later, is again, how do you go forward, how does this impact? And the thing that Senator Maurstad should be concerned about, and Senator Brown, and the other members of the Appropriations Committee, all of us, is that ultimately when you take over the responsibilities...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...of DSS, you also take with it the fact that the federal government requires these reviews, that if you don't meet their guidelines you have sanctions against the state. And the board can say, fine, we'll take responsibility. But you know who's responsible is the Appropriations Committee and this Legislature when something doesn't get done that we're required to do and we've got to pay the bill. So this decision is not a small decision, it's a big decision and it has fiscal implications. And in my view the better course than moving forward with this bill in the form that it is now and as offered by Senator Avery is to step back, look again at the concept of trying the options that we have available, testing out those options, finding the best solution and then coming back with that as the proposal that we discuss on the floor of the Legislature. Right now we're fumbling in the dark and we're not going to find the way down these stairs without a stumble that could put a real bump on our heads, because I don't think we're thinking through this in the way...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.