

going to be levied to the Department of Social Services, which is the state arm that deals with the federal government in these areas, I think is absolutely false. That's exactly where it's going to fall, it's going to fall on DSS, and to say something different in statute won't impact the federal government one whit. I would urge you to continue to listen to the issues that I've tried to raise with this...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...amendment and hopefully support it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall, I'm sorry, I didn't cut you off as quickly as I should have. I hope you let that go by.

SENATOR HALL: Not a problem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Landis. Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. President. And, Senator Hall, thank you for the comments, but unfortunately I have to arise to oppose your amendment at this time and would hope the others would do the same. One thing I think we have to really look at what the process is here. DSS's main responsibilities is the children. The custody, they have the responsibilities of custody of the children when they're taken out of home. They write the children's plan. They contract with service providers. They implement the plan. There needs to be an outside review in which the Legislature has established the Foster Care Review Board. To do that an outside, independent entity, to make sure these functions are being done, and that's what the review process.... If that's...if the case was as it is currently, you get to wonder, of the department reviewing their own work it would be very easy to say, yeah, that's all done, that's all done, everything should be done. But in essence we find time and time again where children fall through the cracks there's not case plans completed. Things get lost in the system and that's why the department or the Legislature created the Foster Care Review Board, to make sure that the processes are looked at and reviewed. An analogy would be like a bank doing its own audit, they may do that but you always need someone else to come in and look at it. There's always going to be a contention when audits are done. In terms of responding, we have presently...each staff member facilitates three boards.