

background on the issue. I know what he's trying to do is to limit the transfer. But what's really being talked about and what really is the focus is how best do we proceed with the issue and solve this problem. Again, I want to back up to the point of why we're even having a discussion, and that is the concern by the Appropriations Committee and the members of the Legislature that we have three different entities doing reviews, the Foster Care Review Board, which I want to acknowledge has done a very fine job in identifying problems and intervening and dealing with cases and helping to serve children. I think that they've been a very positive asset to the state. The Department of Social Services role is to fulfill federal requirements that place restrictions on how long they can take to do a review and the reviews that have to be done, and if they don't meet those federal requirements the potential is there for a sanction. And it's very critical to the department and to us in the Legislature and to the State of Nebraska that we fulfill those federal requirements or face the sanctions and the costs involved. So it's a critical question of who does those. The courts also have similar requirements that they have to meet and there are some real questions about whether or not they're fulfilling those, and I think you'll hear more about that in the near future. So we have three entities out there doing reviews. The question is, if you have duplication do you merge together, do you take different responsibilities, divide up the workload differently? How do you proceed to try and reduce costs and expand the work that's being done, being more efficient and effective in performing the need that is being performed here to serve children that are in our custody? So it seems to me that we had a couple of solutions, one of them was to go slow and to try out some ideas, to test them out in pilots and then to come back and reach a conclusion. I continue to feel that that is the better course, that not knowing more than we do right now we're trying to guess as to the impact, the costs, the implementation, potential downside of that that we have. And not knowing more than we do right now, in my view, and proceeding is a mistake. So I would suggest that the idea of modeling or even backing up, and if we don't want to model and try things out in concrete but examine these options in more detail and come back with better information, I simply think that the bill itself, the underlying bill and the question before us is premature, it's not ready to be on the floor of the Legislature. It needs to have more of the discussion that we're having here, taking up floor time should have been time spent in more negotiations, more committee deliberations, more interim