

study deliberations that could have resolved these questions and then not taken the time on the floor. Now ultimately we're going to take some time on this because any resolution of this will have some conflict simply because the entities involved are unable to work together the way that we would like to see agencies work together, and there is some good reason for that. Part of it is that the Department of Social Services, with their responsibilities to provide plans for children to take care of children, Foster Care Review Board is there looking over their shoulder. And every time we have somebody looking over our shoulder, we're a little uncomfortable with that. And sometimes I felt that they were dealt with unfairly by the Review Board, and so they have an animosity, in some cases, toward the board because of what they've done. The board feels that they can't get too friendly with the department, their job is to be an overseer and apart from and so they don't want to get too close. So there's a natural reason that there's conflict and not cooperation. But we've got to try and bridge that and find a place where you blend together consensus and cooperation where appropriate, still maintaining some independence.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: The problem you get into is if you go forward with this bill and you do what Senator Avery says, you end up with a situation where our state is put at risk if the board does not fulfill their responsibilities, we have potential sanctions, as I said. So in my view if step one is to adopt the Avery amendment, then step two will have to be, in my view, to consider making the board a code agency to be sure that they don't end up in a situation where they don't fulfill what needs to be done and we end up, as a state, having to pay the price for that. The only way you can ensure that oversight is if they become a code agency. I don't think they want that. So you back up and they want the authority, they want the funding, but they also don't want the state overlooking them as they are overlooking the department to make sure that the job gets done, or we have the consequences that we have to pay for. So that's why I think we need to back up, back beyond where this bill is today, back to where we started. And I again suggest that there is a different approach, more logical one...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ...that we should follow. Thank you.