

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. On the Hall amendment, Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I would like to continue from where I was before just a little bit again in looking at the costs. And we talked quite or I talked quite a bit about the staffing levels which I feel is not addressed in the fiscal note at all. Looking at additional review specialists, right now there's a review specialist, as I understand, at the Foster Care Review Board for every three boards. And they're looking at adding 26 boards. There isn't any place where I've seen any kind of a cost for that. The caseworker we talked about that would be involved in the some of the...in the reviews that the Foster Care Review Board would do, the caseworker from DSS, one of the arguments in the past is that the caseworkers are not involved in the random review that the Foster Care Review Board did. And although I think we had that settled with DSS as far as allowing that to happen, one of the objections that DSS had and the main objection was that the Foster Care Review Board meets outside of working hours, which means that they pay that staff person either overtime or in comp time. And right now I'm of the opinion that DSS doesn't have the kinds of numbers of people that they need, that's one of the reasons they get in trouble now and then. These caseworkers then would have to take time away, on a comp time, from other problems and clients that they have to make up for the time they spend with the Foster Care Review Board. Well now that time will escalate as the Foster Care Review Board won't want the caseworkers to come in. There is nothing in the fiscal note that addresses that. Also most of you are aware that Senator Day had a bill that looked at doing joint reviews. Because that bill did not come out of committee, there was not a fiscal note with it. But in asking for a fiscal note to see what it would cost the Foster Care Review Board to do joint studies, what that cost would be, they said that if they had three different sites they would need to do local training for local board members, which would come to \$755.24; there would be travel to do that training of \$1,462.98; they would have to look at their review specialist with comp time or overtime, which would come to \$2,706. They also projected that based on the figures above that they would...there would be more children that would be reviewed through the joint DSS, FCRB reviews in Norfolk and Scottsbluff, and fewer children would be reviewed in Omaha. As a matter of fact, 235 children that were previously to be