

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Avery, Senator Wesely has some questions.

SENATOR WESELY: It looks like Senator Schimek has some questions too that Senator Avery is concentrating on at the moment. But let me...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Avery, Senator Wesely does have some questions, if you would care to respond.

SENATOR AVERY: I will try.

SENATOR WESELY: I know you're trying to answer Senator Schimek's questions but I guess it flows into that by suggesting. You've heard a number of people now ask questions about the fiscal impact, you know, how this is going to work out logistically, the impact in terms of our ability to meet federal standards, questions on the floor that have come up. We had talked before, as you recall when the bill was in committee, about taking the idea that you have of taking some staff out of DSS, putting them into the Foster Care Review Board but not on a statewide basis, on a regional basis and to test it out to see if the questions that are being asked on the floor can be answered to our satisfaction before proceeding further across the state. Is there not some logic to the concept of taking that approach other than your idea of phasing it in and just taking it over statewide? Can you see some virtue to trying it out on a regional basis first?

SENATOR AVERY: I don't really think so. I...I...there's problems, you have to have the process set up to...the structure set up to do this. By fragmenting that, I think we'll have more problems in trying to make sure the process is done adequately.

SENATOR WESELY: By fragmenting, you wouldn't fragment it though, you would take a section of the state and within that section you wouldn't be fragmenting, you would take the approach that you want to take but you would be trying, in a very targeted fashion, to find out whether or not this will work. This would not be dissimilar to what we're trying to do on the preadmission screening on nursing homes and other things. We try models out and then take them further. Can't that concept work in this case?