

we have never, in the time I've been in this Legislature, had a discussion of this subject like we've had today, never. The fact that it came at this time in the session is no basis for us to let go of everything that we have talked about. Senator Avery has offered an amendment, which I, in general, agree but I have...I'm working with Senator Bernard-Stevens, or in conjunction with him, to offer additional amendments to try to narrow that and streamline it so that we have something with which to deal. There is nothing that will change the situation between now and January. Senator Wesely talks about these pilot programs, without legislation, nothing is going to be done, nothing is going to change. We're where we are today because DSS and the board are not working together, they will not work together, they cannot work together. I have stayed here when others were off the floor, and I don't mean that as a criticism, but if I didn't take it seriously and I thought we were just going to pass a certain amount of time then throw it all away then I didn't have to stay here. I've got a bill of my own that I didn't even have put on the agenda because I wanted the lid bill to get a chance to be discussed first, and that has been done. But after all of the laboring that some of us have done, I'm not prepared to let this go. Even if people are tired of the discussion, they don't have to join in it. In fact, they're free to go home if they choose, and those of us who really believe that this is important will work our way through it. Senator Bohlke has a bill on welfare reform that I don't like and I would like to bracket it. You know it won't be bracketed because the Governor wants it. So just because we've discussed it a long time will not be a basis for bracketing that. We're going to discuss the crime bill to cloture and nobody will vote to bracket that, but this is a bill that relates to how our children are being dealt with. There are cases all of us can bring of instances where children have not had their cases properly handled by DSS. On the one hand, when we talk about the welfare reform bill we're going to talk about our concern for children. What becomes of the children who continue not to have their cases properly processed? We put that off until January because we're tired. I'm not prepared to do it. We'll have as long a discussion on bracket motions as we will in discussing the bill. The discussion is not going to be terminated simply because Senator Bohlke offered a bracket motion or because somebody else offers it. The discussion is going to continue. As you all know, we can continue to amend the bracket motion. We can continue the discussion on that until midnight. Why don't we, instead, defeat the bracket