

SPEAKER WITHEM: Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body is, shall debate now cease? All those in favor vote aye. Opposed vote nay. The question is, shall debate now cease? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 8 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The debate has not ceased. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is one of those issues on which Senator Wesely and I disagree. I don't think the Department of Social Services has a proprietary interest in this area and that we have to allow them to continuing doing what they have been doing. In all of the discussions that I've had with anybody, regardless of their attitude toward this bill, I have yet to find one person who says that the way things are being done now is the best way that we can do it. Everybody says there has got to be a change but the other side...and I hate to say it like that, but those who don't want to do anything with this bill are saying, but don't change right now, don't do anything, which is what the argument is every time an attempt is made to achieve something. We need a change but not right now, let's put it off, and after conceding that there are serious problems with the current system, the attitude seems to be--but let it stay in place, let it function as it's functioning, let kids get lost in the cracks, let the kids who are abused in the Grand Island area without having recourse, let that continue, let the problems in Omaha continue, and let us not face this issue and address it in any way. What is being presented to us probably does not make anybody feel 100 percent at ease in terms of us saying this is the best possible solution that we have. It was designed to be a midway point so that something could be undertaken, some movement could be made and while these less than total incomprehensive steps are being taken, by that I meant it's not going to be a statewide effort affecting all parts of the state at the same time, it's in the nature of pilot projects or a limited approach, we can see if what is being suggested is going to work. It will be put in place in Omaha where we have probably the bulk of the problems. I would like to see Grand Island included because at this meeting which I attended serious concerns were expressed about the problems in Grand Island. There is no way that I, having listened to what is going on in terms of children not being served and children being physically harmed, with that knowledge there is no way I can sit back and