

that's...if the bill in fact passes in its amended form, but rather working on the concept so if and when it becomes statewide we would then have that transition already made into that code agency where there would be some type of oversight. So with that, Senator Avery, I will be supporting your amendment and look forward to working with you and others during the interim.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek, on the Avery amendment.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I will be brief. I, too, am not going to support advancement of the bill or adoption of the amendment, primarily for the reasons that have already been stated by Senator Bernard-Stevens and Senator Connie Day. But I did want to say, I guess on the record, something on behalf of the employees over at the Department of Social Services. I really feel that there are a lot of good, conscientious people who maybe have been caught up in this whole issue and are maybe feeling very unappreciated. And I think it's important that we acknowledge these state employees and that we say a word on their behalf and let them know that it is not their performance personally that is under consideration here, it is the system itself. And I have, like some others have expressed, a real desire to see us do what is best and put in place what will help have the best reviews and what will be best for these children. I just...I'm just concerned that we don't go too fast. I'm glad that the bill is going to be on Select File, or at least be held over for the summer and that we can continue to work on this. I have the same kinds of concerns that Senator Day and Senator Bernard-Stevens have talked about concerning accountability. Also I have some concerns about actual costs, which Senator Hillman, who is not here, not able to be with us today, has talked about on a number of occasions. I think that all of these things we can look at this summer, hopefully we can come back in some kind of agreement next year and go ahead and pass a bill that will be the best thing that we can come up with. So I would say that I'm not going to fight this going over to Select File, but neither am I going to vote for it at this point. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Well, I am going to support the amendment and I am going to vote to move