

requires all the levels of supervision that go with the bureaucracy. But that caseworker often does not...does not always have the full picture that the Foster Care Review Board was, and one of the cases in example was a little girl, age nine, who was made a state ward due to her allegations of sexual abuse by her stepfather. And due to lack of evidence, her stepfather was acquitted by the court, and Janine was going to be returned to this potentially dangerous home. When the Foster Care Review Board reviewed the case, it was learned the stepfather had other children in foster care in another county who had also alleged sexual abuse. The stepfather had never told either the case manager about the other case, so when the Foster Care Review Board shared the information with them it was the first time they had learned of it. These children were receiving internal reviews by the Department of Social Services, but they were unaware of the second set of siblings. This is the kind of thing that Foster Care Review is known for and commended for. And I think LB 642, as evidenced by the committee and all of the information that I have learned about since, is really putting in Foster Care Review Board the tools, and they have been a proven force to do thorough, careful reviews, and I really strongly support LB 642. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely, on the motion to advance.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I think it's a degree of graciousness on the parts of the opponents of the bill to step back and allow the bill to be advanced and amended as we have. But I do rise in part to take away a little of that graciousness and indicate that I object to the bill, will vote against the bill, and object to the way it's been handled from the time it was pulled out of committee. You know the question that was asked some time ago about some of the racial tensions we have in our country was, why can't people get along? Somebody could ask the same question about why the Department of Social Services and the Foster Care Review Board, two groups that are dedicated, supposedly, and in my view they are in fact dedicated to serving the children of our state, yet they can't get along. Well, part of the reason is the way in which this bill was handled. You know we have to work with one another, whether we like it or not, here on the floor of the Legislature. And we have to work with one another whether we like it or not in state government. And that means treating each other with respect and dignity and honesty, and trying to find a way to work through issues together and not try to draw a line in the