

had a committee meeting and the majority of people voted it out. So I, you know, just make sure that that is in the record. And I...so that's that. One other point that I wanted to talk about is there are changes that are happening with Congress, in Washington, and they are going...what looks to be, into a block grant process. But the one very important element, HR-4, the House has passed, and from the conversation I had with the staff there, it was pretty adamant that an element be left in there, and that element is citizen review. That has and is a part of the block grant system that the House is pushing and a requirement, I guess, in terms of these block grants, that citizen review be in place in the states. The specific language is Section 25, citizen review panels. Each state to which a grant is made, under Section 423, shall establish at least three citizen review panels. The idea, in talking to proponents of this system, is that there's many states that don't have and don't utilize citizen review. So I think Congress realizes the importance of citizen review. And I think it's a very important element that we should consider, and I think we have been a leader in this. Our foster care has been a leader in training and having citizen review panels to make sure that we're watching what citizens, or what the children are going on in terms of adoption and foster care and the whole process. So it is one important element that we should consider and push forward. I think that's why we are going in the right direction with this, put more responsibility. In terms of DSS, they are burdened, they do have heavy case loads. Let's... I think this system will allow them to do the job of writing the case plans, providing and making sure the services for the kids, then the review is a small element. That's to make sure things are happening, kids are getting taken care of, they're not dropping between the cracks. It isn't...any system you have isn't going to work 100 percent. But if we can get it 95 or better, or 90 percent or better, we will be doing a justice to our system. With that, I ask for your support on this and we can get on to better things.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Avery. You've heard the closing. The question before the body is, shall LB 642 be advanced to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Read record vote as found on page 2701 of the Legislative Journal.) 39 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 642.