

this, did contact me last fall, did suggest we talk about the issue, and it was my call at that time not to do so. He did make an effort to try and work on this and I felt, because of the congressional discussion, that it would be helpful to see that resolved and then have this, this discussion that we're having right now. Unfortunately, there hasn't been a resolution of things in the Congress and who knows when they will. And so, obviously, we're here and discussing this bill now. But the reason I was concerned about what the Congress would do is because the whole question involved here is how do you take the federal funding and federal responsibility and how do you allocate the money and carry out the responsibility? And my thinking was, it's quite possible that with all the cuts at the federal level there may not be funding for this in the future. Perhaps the responsibility would be removed. Who knows at this point? Most likely it would remain, but it is possible that it would change. So we have to keep that...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...in mind. Right now one of the fights here is for Foster Care Review Board to get more funding, they would get additional funding to do this. And that funding may go away. The question is, will the responsibility remain. Who knows? But I think we may be fighting over an illusive gain that may be very short term. So you come back to the question of, what is the problem we're trying to address? Is there another solution to the problem and, that's better than this one? And how does this solution end up with other consequences? And my response to that is, number one, there are some problems, I will admit to that, but I do not think it's an overwhelming problem. I think, by and large, these reviews are done in timely fashion and in a quality fashion, with some exceptions. If there are exceptions, the Foster Care Review Board can intercede at their choice and intervene. And if this step is taken to include them in the system as part of the administration, then we have to look at their relationship to the overall system and perhaps reconsider their role as an independent entity. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. Senator Avery.