

have been interested in this subject, and believe me, I have been interested. I've sat on this floor before and I'm a former foster parent of two teenage daughters and also have worked I think very closely with my local Foster Care Review Board, have attended their meetings, tried to find out how the process work, and I'm only supportive of the work that they do. I think that's, those of us that have some questions about this program are not...or this legislation are not questioning the abilities of the Foster Care Review Board because we definitely think there is a place for them. And the place was to do kind of a check and balance on what was being done by the state in DSS. In the past, of the cases that the Foster Care Review Board have reviewed with the citizens review, 70 percent of those cases they found there was nothing wrong with them, there was nothing else that could be done. So it's not like every case they reviewed they found something wrong with. The other thing that the Foster Care Review Board has been very successful, I think, in doing, and it was their role and they have done that, and that is to become an advocate for children placed out of the home. The Foster Care Review Board has pointed out many things that are not proper in the system or not being carried out well. They've looked at issues like the guardian ad litem, how much contact there is with the child, changes that should be made in that area. They have looked at the courts and how much material has been looked at, how different courts in different areas approach the placement of children, have pointed out problems in that system. They have looked at the changes in homes, the lack of foster homes in western Nebraska, it's deplorable.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR HILLMAN: We are constantly losing homes and trying to figure out why and how they can be replaced.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR HILLMAN: They continue to look at statewide issues of the process, the philosophy on reunification and how much that is. They have done a good job in doing that. If this review process totally is turned over to them, my point is is that those issues that they have brought before us that either have been addressed or not been addressed will not be addressed any quicker with the full review by the Foster Care Review Board than they're being done right now. They can't make those