

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...these are a number of people who are volunteers, who do not get paid, they are not on anybody's payroll, they are not subject to the ideas that are handed down to them by certain bureaucrats so they have more freedom to pursue the care and overseeing of children and seeing that it is done in a manner that I consider to be, at this point at least, excellent. I understand your discussion about the costs. Of course costs are going to go up. They are going to go up in any account because we are having more and more foster kids to care for and no matter which way we go, I think that that is a situation that is going to continue to exist and continue to grow. I just can't, at this point at least, until I have more reason to...can be convinced that this is a good way to go and so with that I am going to oppose your amendment. Thank you very much.

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

SENATOR DIERKS: Madam President, members of the body, I just can't support making this a code agency. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes. Madam Chairman and members, just a little bit and then, Senator Vrtiska, I'll be glad to give you some of my time since I elaborated a little bit long on yours. But, one of the things I guess I would just like to reinforce is what I consider the complement of volunteers involved in government because there is definitely a partnership there that is needed because government cannot do all things and be all things to everyone, as we well know. And, the volunteer component in the Foster Care Review Board is extremely important. I personally have been a director of three different volunteer agencies, five years at a time and my whole focus has been through most of my professional life before I came to the Legislature in volunteerism and working with volunteers. And believe me, there is nothing, nothing more valuable than the volunteers and the work that they do. They are...they are more committed, of course, they don't require money, they are more sensitive, I think to the issues many times than perhaps what a paid employee can be and because of everything that goes through it. These people are there because they want to be. They donate their