

bill. They want to get rid of the Foster Care Review Board. That is what it is, folks. That's what it is. They want to get rid of it. They don't like the way it functions. They think Social Services should have the...just do it the way Social Services did before. And I'm not criticizing Social Services. All of the caseworkers, all the people in that department work very hard at their jobs to try to do the best they can for the people that they serve. I said that last year on the welfare bill. They all work very hard. But it is always the people at the top that are looking for that power. And that is what they are doing today. This came in right in from the Rotunda from the Governor, I know it did and they are trying to get rid of Foster Care Review Board. Let's be honest about it. I will not support this. I don't think it does anything to help what we are talking about. It does not help the children. Don't fall for that. It does not help the children. I will not vote for this amendment. I hope all of you will not vote for this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, briefly, I would rise to oppose the amendment at this point. I was one of two members of the Legislature that voted no on the establishment of the Foster Care Review Board. My rationale for doing that was exactly the argument that I hear to this day, to me it was pure duplication, if you were having a problem with how some program or agency was functioning, it made absolutely no sense to me to establish a second agency to check on the first one. Why don't you solve the problem where it is? Since that time, well, that's...I think it is a valid one certainly in general but since that time I have become convinced from the things that I have seen occur that probably that was a good piece of legislation, a good policy when it was enacted. At some point I would hope that the management from a state's viewpoint of these kind of issues with foster care, that we did not need or did not need to try to justify two separate agencies reviewing those cases to make sure that the individual child was being appropriately cared for, but at this point I am not ready to establish two competing code agencies to do the same thing. If there is any justification at all for two agencies, they need to be as they are structured now, I would think, with separate...with a certain amount of separation between the two. But with that the eventual goal I would have would be to not