

February 21, 1996 LB 1001

than I would expect on consent calendar is on consent calendar.
Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Schimek,
your light...Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I want to briefly respond to Senator Witek's
comments. The concerns that were expressed by that letter I
haven't seen before, but trying to complicate the bill is not
particularly appropriate because all we're talking about is
after the decision is made to remove the child because this it's
in the best interest of the child, the next question is, where
does the placement occur. And that's all this bill deals with,
and all that it says with the committee amendment is that a
preference be given to relatives, that that be the first place
to look, and the best interest of the child continues to hold.
So I think they've overinterpreted or overemphasized this bill.
I don't think it really is the danger or threat that people
might think. So I would very much support the change. I think
it's in line with our idea of families trying to help out in
times of need. So, I rise in support of the bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Any further
discussion on LB 1001? Seeing none, Senator Schimek, to close.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of
the body Senator Witek, I do appreciate the fact that you
brought this to my attention. Actually, even though I haven't,
I'm not familiar with that group, I had heard from one woman who
had some of the same kinds of concerns. And I do believe that
the amendment does address some of those concerns. I would like
to say that I am open to suggestions or ideas on this. I don't
think that you're going to ever prevent family fights from
happening no matter what the policy is. I just...I just think
that this bill does not do anything that, that would trigger
more of that kind of thing. And I do believe that if we keep
the best interest of the child always in our view, it will work
all right. And I do know that there are many, many grandparents
who are already raising grandchildren and very successfully.
With that, I'd ask you to advance this to Select File.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the
closing. The question is the advancement to E & R Initial of
LB 1001. All in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record please.