

review of children placed out of the home is a great evaluation tool, and that their advocacy efforts have brought to our attention some needed changes in the system. And though not all of their recommendations have been implemented, not because they weren't valuable, because of the lack of resources and the willingness sometimes of this body to make those kinds of changes. I met with local Foster Care Review Boards, I've sat in on their hearings, I really feel I know the operations and how it works; and so my objection is not to what the Foster Care Review Board has done with a random survey, and I underline that random citizen survey part of it. It's where we're going by expanding the whole review process to go to the Foster Care Review Board. What I feel that we're doing today is we are really changing nothing, and most of us have some high expectations here and rightly so that the system isn't always what we want it to be, that children placed out of the home haven't always been in the correct setting or things have not gone like we would like to see them do because we've heard complaints. My premise is what we're doing today won't change any of that. It's not the solution to the problem that I think most of us see. It will not change anything when it comes to the guardian ad litem. It won't add for any more training for law enforcement. It won't get you any more...recruit any more foster homes. It won't provide any better training for foster parents. It won't have a stronger support system for foster parents. There won't be any more resources put into the system to help in the kinds of services that are needed out there. All we will have done is expand the current citizen review, that review that sits back and says this works, this doesn't but doesn't have any power to change any of that. I think they accomplish the same thing with a random review that they will if they do all the reviews. What I would like to see instead is us focus on the kind of changes that need to be done that our investments would be on recruiting more foster homes, more training, more support, more resources for that system. We will never find, in my estimation, a perfect world when government replaces the parent. These are troubled children coming from troubled homes and they're extremely, extremely difficult issues to deal with. Our problem is I think we will think we have done something today, we will walk away and say, well, we helped solve that problem. I don't think we will have helped solve the problem in any way, shape, or form. And with that, I would urge the return to file, the acceptance of the amendment, but I will not be voting for the bill.