

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Hillman. There are no other lights on. Senator Avery, did you wish to close on your motion to return? Closing is waived. The question before the body is the return to Select File of LB 642 for the purposes of a specific amendment. Those in favor please vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to return the bill.

SENATOR COORDSEN: The bill is returned to Select File. Senator Avery, to open on your amendment. (AM4236)

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. President. Members, there's a lot that goes on. In terms of foster care, I think this bill, as Joyce Hillman says, there are things that it won't do. But it will...and it is a process, one step towards streamlining government services. We had one process in here that was a duplication. I think any time you can eliminate that duplication you're streamlining our government operations. I feel that's important. But probably the most important thing is the children. What this...this will help children make sure that they're not falling through the cracks. It will pick up and make sure those children are getting the proper services. the proper treatment, they're dealt with properly, and they're not lost someplace in the system. And I think that is the most vital thing that we can do. The other thing that it's going to do is make sure that we don't have children in the system as long as we have in the past. There's always going to continually be mistakes. Hopefully with a better system, and I feel that this is going to be a step. Back when Foster Care Review Board was initiated, started, Senator Warner was key in that, Senator Hartnett was key in getting their advocacy in terms of the courts. The part they play is to help the courts and make sure that legal action is taken in the best interest of those children. When they were initiated as Senator Hillman had stated, they have been doing the spot checks. Actually, I believe they've been doing about 60 percent of the reviews in the last few years. It's important I think that they get in and they're able to do more. But on the other side, we need their involvement in children, in the courts, in OJS, in other areas that we need. We've got unfortunately Omaha with its population is probably the biggest area that needs care; and this is an