

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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is...and I understand why they do these things, but they have been assigning, under the foster care program, boys in particular, young boys of 18, 17, 18, 19, 16, to foster care homes, and I think that some of these young men, because they are at the point where they are acting like men, not like children, are in a violent mode of behavior, and I don't believe foster care was ever set up for that kind of use. I think that...so from what you're doing here today or talking about I think should, I would hope, would include that part of foster care that I think has been misused. There have been two incidents in my district with a couple who have been foster parents for more than 30 years and they are wonderful people. They know what they're doing. The mother is a...the wife is a law...she her law degree, she has been a probation officer, she knows the system. But you cannot send people like that to a home like that and expect it to work when these...these young people are in what I call a violent mode. There's more to foster care. Foster care, originally, was set up to help families who were having a problem and it has developed into the place where we, if a child is having a problem or the parents can't cope, they send them to foster care. Well, Senator Thompson, could you answer me a quick question just so I feel that what I'm talking about is on the record, because I do believe that all of you who are working with this should be taking into consideration what I'm talking about, that foster care was not meant as a haven for violent young people. Do you...have...has that been discussed? Will you do me a favor and put it in as part of the discussion as you go along?

SENATOR THOMPSON:      Okay, this particular bill, yes, Senator Crosby, and I'm sorry, we were having a discussion...

SENATOR CROSBY:      That's all right.

SENATOR THOMPSON:      ...off the floor, so I...

SENATOR CROSBY:      That's all right.

SENATOR THOMPSON:      ...missed some of the beginning of it. I think what your question is, is are...

SENATOR CROSBY:      Health and Human Services sends young men, in