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SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. I wonder if I could ask Senator Suttle a question or two?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Suttle, would you respond to a question? Senator Suttle. Thank you.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Yes, sir.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Suttle, how many other states do the CASA thing, do you know that?

SENATOR SUTTLE: It changes all the time. Most...most of the staff...I think it was the last time I heard it was like 27 had the official program, and we have an official program as well. We just don't have any statutory help behind it.

SENATOR DIERKS: So you're trying to strengthen the program.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Yes, sir.

SENATOR DIERKS: I see. And most of your wording, as I look at it in the bill or the amendment, is more "may" rather than "shall" as far as the courts are concerned. Isn't that right?

SENATOR SUTTLE: That's correct.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yeah.

SENATOR SUTTLE: The judge...it's really up to the judge. If he wants to use a CASA and wants someone to advocate for the child, he is...he or she is the one that appoints that...that CASA.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, thank you. I have no problem with it. I would support the amendment too. Actually, I've had quite a little input from members across the state that are involved with CASA and...and so I know just a little bit about them, maybe enough to be dangerous, but I will support the amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Crosby,