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requested and directed that they would be reporting back on that. But foster care placement has created so many difficulties in so many young kids' lives that, to me, the training for every person that goes into it should stay in place. And that would be my thoughts as I vote on this bill. Again, I'm very supportive of the discussion, of the thought, of the work the committee has given to it, and of what our agencies do in directing foster care. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. On with discussion, Senator Erdman. Senator Erdman, your light is the last one. You can either speak, or you may close if you care to.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I will use this as my closing. I appreciate Senator Kruse's comments. Again, the intent of LB 54 is not to in any way weaken our system or in any way to bring an additional risk to those young people who are in our foster care programs, whether they be wards of the state, or how they get there. The intent is to allow us, one, to access the additional federal funds into our foster care program that would be eligible for those relatives to be able to take care, have the resources available to take care of their relatives in that situation. Again, with the committee amendment, as well as the intent of the bill and the discussion that we've had with the Department of Health and Human Services, this would be done on a case-by-case basis. This would be done in a situation where the department sits down with the family and says, we need to go over and look at some of your qualifications, some of your background, and figure out whether or not you actually need the training or not. There is in no way a complete waiver to all relatives, as talked about. There would still be the opportunity for the department to say, you know what, you need to go through the training requirements. And I think that's the right approach. We have worked with not only our department here in the state of Nebraska, but we have also been working with regional HHS, from the federal government. What's being proposed under LB 54 with the committee amendment is consistent with federal regulations and guidelines and would allow us the opportunity to access approximately, over the course of the budget, an additional