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great flexibility for this particular practice; that anyone that is sort of anywhere in sight as far as a relative could become a foster care provider and could be exempted and licensed, even though they don't take foster care training, the 12 to 21 hours of training. And actually, that's the thing that concerned me. Is it really a good idea to have foster care providers and exempt the requirement that they do training? Now, I can understand the financial implication of it, but I wonder if that's a particularly good idea. So I'm going to stop there with my opening and simply point out that this provides a definition to go along with the proposal in this bill, and it is in fact a very broad definition, and invite any comment on this and ask...also, I plan to ask either Senator Erdman or Senator Jensen a couple questions to indicate the background for this particular proposal. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Did you wish ask one of them a question, Senator Raikes?

SENATOR RAIKES: I'll stop now. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Okay. Thank you, Senator Raikes. Open for discussion on the Raikes amendment. Senator Stuthman, followed by Senators Erdman and Raikes. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the body. It is in my opinion the placement of foster children into foster care is kind of a situation that, when it occurs that the state must place them somewhere into these foster care facilities or foster care families, I always felt that it would be a lot better if they were placed in a family, a family members that maybe would feel that they could hopefully steer this individual in the right direction. I think the biggest problem is that a lot of the family...families that would like to do this do have that...the problem with going to the training, you know, of the amount of hours that it takes to get certified to be a foster care provider. I think it's in the best interests of some of these individuals that are, you know, provided as they are wards of the state and need to get some guidance, hopefully to get them in the right direction, and I think family members, hopefully, would be better situations than just being placed in