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foster care facilities, which those facilities are doing it as a business. They're doing it for the money part of it. And I think getting assistance for families to hopefully try to work with these kids I think would be beneficial. And this is the comment that I have. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. Senator Stuthman, thank you for those comments. I believe that you bring up some very valid points. I rise to discuss a little bit behind what...or the reason why we have LB 54 here before you as a legislative bill. With working with the Department of Health and Human Services, we have found that there are some opportunities that we have, as far as the standards that we set within the foster care system, enabling us to secure additional federal dollars for our foster care program. And one of the ways that we can do that is under what's being proposed in LB 54, and that is allowing those individuals who are family members of a potential foster child to be able to have those individuals placed in their home and waive the training requirement on a case-by-case basis if the Department of Health and Human Services determines that that is, one, in the best interest of the child, and I think that's the key point that I want to stop at right now. Regardless of whether LB 54 passes or not, and I think it would be in the best interests of both the foster care program as well as the young people that are in it to have those dollars in the program, but regardless of whether this passes or not, I think the goal ultimately of the program is to make sure that those kids are placed in facilities that's in their best interest. Now there is always discussion about whether or not the standards should be the same back and forth or how do we set those up. I think the underlying goal is, though, obviously, that it's got to be in the best interest of the child. Having seen that and having made that comment, the committee amendment does look at that issue and says, on a case-by-case basis, we're not only going to look at, you know, obviously where we're going to place these kids, but obviously if the family needs the additional training we're going to require that of them. And so there is that discretion given to the department to make sure that that