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LB 54

those people can appear, those young people can appear at your home at any time with a number of problems. Now, the same thing could happen if you are a relative foster care parent. Those young people could show up as well. The difference is you know who they are. You know this young person. You've seen him or her grow up. The difference with the situation is, is that in that earlier situation, if you're a licensed home and that young person shows up there, you've never met him but you might have had some training, so you might not even be any more prepared than anyone else because of that training but that's the goal, you can access federal funds. This situation is you actually know this young person. You know some of the issues behind him. You would know a lot of the reasons why they've had some problems in their life. You would know why they're in foster care, and then you would have that young person in your home as well. The difference is, is that you can't access the federal funds, the IV-E funds, to do that. So the proposal in LB 54 doesn't essentially, you know, change the process. It doesn't throw out things that aren't already in place or it doesn't put in things that shouldn't be there. It simply says, look, this is the practice; here's a problem that we see as far as being able to access the federal funds. The federal government, the HHSS has said you can do this; this is allowable. There are some guidelines given to you under relative foster care that you can go ahead and access these additional funds. I think Senator Jensen's amendment that will come up later I think would be a valuable discussion to actually talk about the process in place. I think that would be a logical step to go because it does talk about what you can or cannot waive or what that looks like. In other words, I believe what Senator Jensen is going to offer is, is that when you're talking about waiving the requirement, waiving the training, that you give the department flexibility of either waiving the whole training or waiving part of the training. So that way they can sit down and say, look, we know that you can meet these qualifications, but we would really like you to meet these qualifications, and allow them essentially to set up a program that does two things: one, it looks out for the best interest of the child and making sure there isn't a barrier for them being able to be placed in a home where they will feel comfortable, where they know the individuals, where it will take away some of that anxiety that those young people are