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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 761

important mission, and I believe these changes strengthen the board, and also recognize that it has become a state agency, gone from an advocacy position when it was created in 1982, to more of a state agency actually that it is now in terms of its mission and also in terms of its budget. So with that, I will close on this and be happy to answer any questions you may have.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. You've heard the opening on LB 761. There are committee amendments, as stated by the Clerk. The Chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee Schimek, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. I will be brief. Senator Thompson has done a good job outlining what the committee amendment does incorporate into the bill. I'll go over it just briefly again, and say that we spent a lot of time talking about this bill before we finally advanced it. I think we have it where we need to have it. It would ensure that the Foster Care Review Board would have 11 members. They are appointed by the Governor, approval by the Legislature. Three members of local foster care review board would be on it; a pediatrician; a child psychologist; a social worker; an attorney with experience as a guardian ad litem; a representative of a statewide child advocacy group; a child advocacy center coordinator; the director of a court-appointed special advocate program; and a member of the public with a background in business and finance. We ask that those come, to the extent possible, from each of the three congressional districts. I would recommend the adoption of the committee amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Chairperson Schimek. Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Thompson, AM1309. I have your note you want to withdraw AM1309.

SENATOR CUDABACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Thompson would move to amend with AM1644,