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tip of the iceberg here. He addressed that in his opening statement. Why does the system not work? Why are there continual calls? And I, too, receive these calls. I have tried to address this in a number of ways. We put out some legislation to hold the system more accountable, and the system is very, very resistant to that. I'm supportive of Senator Friend's work in addressing this issue and would be happy to work with him in the future. I encourage everyone to look at this and to ask the deep, deep question, why does the system not work in this state? Why do foster parents feel disenfranchised? Why do case managers feel overwhelmed? Why do foster children remain in the system for days, months, in many cases years? With that, I return the balance of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Senator Howard, thank you, first of all because, I've said this before, you've been there. You've worked on this for a long time. And I appreciate those comments, and what you said was poignant and it's true. This is the tip of the iceberg, and that's what I was going to finish up on. We have permissive language here, excuse me, and which will be adopted into LB 1115. It is permissive language now. When I first spoke, I tend to get...sometimes I get frustrated and sometimes it builds up, and builds up, and builds up, and then, boom, I'm on the mike and I try to blow a hole through the brick. I apologize for that, I sincerely do, and I don't mean it to come out in that fashion. But I am frustrated. I am frustrated because I can't tell a foster caregiver, a good one...let's take a good one, let's say there's 70 percent of them out there are really doing a good job...I'm frustrated because I can't tell them why they can't go into a courtroom and speak or have the judge at least acknowledge it about the welfare of a child who's been with them for 15 months. That frustrates me. I say...I stare into the...I stare into the receiver of the phone or I stare into their face and say, I don't know what to tell you. We all know how frustrating that is. How many...I don't like to give that as an answer--I don't know and I can't help you. Well, maybe, from the tip of the iceberg standpoint, what we've