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you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Foley, your light is next, followed by Senator Howard.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. The six years that I've been in the Legislature, there's no question in my mind as to what was the most difficult issue that I had to address, and it was a couple of cases actually, and they both involve foster children, children within the foster care system, and it was just enormously frustrating, as I got into the details of some of these cases and visited with the foster parents and learned a great deal about what they knew of these children and how the children were being treated when they were outside of the foster care system, when they're turned back to the biological parents. And there were many, many cases that I learned about as I researched all this where the foster parents did, indeed, have enormous knowledge, very intimate knowledge, of what was happening to those children when they weren't under the care of the foster parents, and it was a source of great frustration to those foster parents that they could not go into court and have standing. And that's what the original text of LB 770 was all about. LB 770, in its original form, green copy form, provided the foster parents to have standing in court; to stand before the judge and tell the judge what was really happening in the life of that child. But that's been substantially diluted now. If you look at the committee amendment, at the bottom of page 18 and top of page 19, this concept of giving standing to foster parents has now been diluted down into something along the lines of the court may inquire of the foster parents, the court may inquire. That's all we're getting? That's not enough. That's not nearly enough. And I hope that between now and Select File we can give this matter a lot more thought and strengthen that provision. We need something a lot more than "the court may inquire." Those foster parents need to either have standing or have some mechanism for bringing the knowledge of...the facts of that case forward for the judge. And if the judge wants to dismiss it, at least let these foster parents have that day in court so they can bring that information forward to the judge and let him evaluate whether or not he thinks it's truthful and valid and