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relevant to the case that he's adjudicating. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Howard, on AM2038.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the body. I had no idea this topic would be presented today in its...as a dialogue, but I'm very glad it's come up. The core problem is really not whether foster parents have standing in court, or whether they have a voice, or whether they're able to speak in court. In my experience, they are able to attend hearings, and if the judge should choose to ask questions of them, they are free to provide information. I don't think that's the core problem here that we're dealing with. This is much, much deeper, and I challenge Senator Foley and I challenge Senator Friend and I challenge this body to look at where the problem lies. I think many of us have had experiences in dealing with Health and Human Services, and have we come away feeling that our inquiries were answered or that Health and Human Services was really interested in addressing the issues that we brought to them? And I can tell you, as someone that's worked for them, the attitude is case managers are paid, they're paid to do a job. They're not considered to be professionals. They're not considered to be team members. They're considered to be people that get a salary and that's the extent of it. This causes frustration with the foster parents, with the care...foster care review system, with the courts, guardian ad litem. The list goes on, and on, and on. We need to be willing to look at what is happening with Health and Human Services. I have brought in a number of bills. Health and Human Services, on a consistent basis, comes in and speaks in opposition to the bills, one being full disclosure adoption. When you are at the point where you will be adopting a child from Health and Human Services, you signed an adoption agreement, you've had that child in your home for a minimum of six months, you should be able to read the case file. You should be able to know that child's history. And if that child is exhibiting difficulties that you're concerned about, you should be able to request an evaluation so that it's documented, documented. Second issue that I brought in recently was