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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Howard, would you yield to a question from Senator Smith?

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Howard, I heard you mention earlier that you are wanting to be more efficient with state funds, and if you're successful with this amendment, do you plan to offer any subsequent amendments?

SENATOR HOWARD: Actually, I was just having that conversation with Senator Erdman, which delayed my response to you. If you'll check on the computer system, if you'll look in the list of amendments, I have not offered a subsequent amendment regarding child protection services. I think that would be the answer to your question.

SENATOR SMITH: Well, the time is not up, in terms of offering amendments, either now or on the next round. So do you plan to offer any amendments to the budget if you're successful with this amendment?

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, thank you for pointing that out, that there is additional time. I hadn't had that intention. You cause me to ponder and wonder if maybe there's something that's worth considering, but, no, I would tell you I haven't intended to put in a subsequent amendment. I appreciate your suggestion, however.

SENATOR SMITH: Let the record be clear that I'm not suggesting that (laugh) whatsoever. I'm just trying to get a grasp of what the numbers are here and what your intent is, and I seek not to embitter the case whatsoever. And thank you, Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you.

SENATOR SMITH: I am still puzzled a bit, and perhaps the subsequent discussion can help me out here, but I'm inclined to vote against the Howard amendment simply because I'm not afraid of more information on our foster care system. I know that there was some concern the prior round of budget debate and I'm not afraid of more information. So thank you, Mr. President.