TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2006 LB 1060

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. During our time here in the Legislature together, Senator Howard and I have had many interesting discussions. As you all know, we come from different perspectives, we come from a different area of the state, so our philosophies are somewhat different. But I will tell you that there is probably not another senator in here who I trust more and respect more with her knowledge when it comes to foster care and social services. For Senator Howard to offer this amendment to cut \$500,000 from a study in an area that she cares deeply about, that is sending a message to all of us that she truly believes a study is not necessary. And I support her amendment and I thank her for offering it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator Dwite Pedersen.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm sure many of you have heard from your own foster parents in your own constituencies. I'm going to support Howard's amendment because there's something very funny-feeling to me about having to do yet another study. have done several studies. Most of the studies were to get somebody off the hook, so we don't have to take blame for what's going on in that current bureaucracy now or that current administration. Sometimes maybe it's been even the Legislature that was trying to get off the hook. One of the worst votes I think I ever made in this Legislature was when I voted to combine all those agencies under one. We've got ourselves out there a glob which we call Health and Human Services, and if it wasn't for the committee, Senator Jensen and his staff, we would be completely overrun. We throw more money, and more money, and more money. We add staff, all the staff that we added two years ago, and we've still got dead babies and dead children. And we've got people pointing their fingers at one another. I am very scared, in hearing from the people I've worked with in my district who are foster parents, that this is nothing more than a study that will come back with the results of we have to do away with the Foster Care Review Board. That scares the hell out of me, people, because they're the only agency we have out there that's not answerable to that glob. What Senator Friend