

as Senator Chambers said, if it needs to be a priority, let's pay for it. Let's not hide behind some fees we're going to collect so that we don't raise our taxes doing it and make a special group pay for it. I support Senator Chambers' amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, then Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I listened to the debate on this bill, they've kind of got 49 senators between a rock and a hard place. If you don't vote for the bill, there is a strong possibility that the people back home are going to think, gee whiz, Marge Higgins is in favor of child abuse because she voted against that bill or she didn't support it when in fact, as I listen to this debate, I'm beginning to think, are we not creating a new program, a new bureaucracy if you will? Right now the Department of Social Services has in Douglas County, Child Protective Services and their job is to look out for child abuse and I have spoken to Director Dunning about it and I've told her my experience with them has been pitiful. I don't know right now. I'm going to study this bill some more and the ramifications of it. Are we creating a new program? Are we creating a new bureaucracy? And are we using children to do it? What's the present Child Protective Agencies doing? I had a woman call me one time that was divorced or, excuse me, who called me who was a foster parent. One of the natural parents was an emotionally disturbed woman and the father was mentally retarded and the foster parent called me because she had been to Child Protective Services, she had been to juvenile court. She had been every place. And this child was three years old and they had ruled that every weekend that child would go home to its natural parents. The only trouble was when the baby came back home, the foster mother said it would be two, three, four days before it would ever allow her to change its diaper. He had been sexually abused by his father and it was very obviously, obvious physically. And on Fridays when the Child Protective Service came to take the child to the natural parents, that poor infant or two or three year old would scream and holler and cry, didn't want to go. And as I investigated it, they said someone was supposed to be in that home while that child was there and they obviously weren't. Now God knows I am against child abuse or I would never have introduced my child pornography bill this year, but I'm wondering why we have a Child Protective Agency