

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

April 18, 2001 LB 598

SENATOR THOMPSON: So are you telling me that the agency that wants to do direct placements doesn't even have a plan for where they're going to put these kids, and a reason for where they're putting them?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Oh, I think very much so they do, or they wouldn't be bringing this in here at this time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Then why is there a cost, if they're already doing it?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: You can't do all these reviews without adding...

SENATOR THOMPSON: This is not a review. This is the plan. The same, p-l-a-n, plan I see that they already are required to do under their own regulations, bringing that plan to the court.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: I will get that answer, and I'll bring it back to you here in a few minutes.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: The...again, I need to mention that this is really tough for Senator Thompson and I to go back and forth at one another, because she's been my sidekick in all of these juvenile court type things and all the juvenile issues. She knows the system a lot better than I ever dreamed of knowing it. I only work in the system. I'm a therapist. I work with young people. And I'm telling you, we, as far as bureaucracies go, we've got a bureaucracy in every one of the juvenile courtrooms. The other day, I went to court with a kid, this was two weeks ago, with a young man who asked me to go to court with him because he was scared of how many people were in there. There was eight, nine people in there getting in that courtroom with this one kid that are tax-paid individuals. You have a guardian ad litem, you have a public defender, you have the judge, you've got a court reported, you've got...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.