PAT MURPHY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Thirty-Sixth District
Dubuque
State Capitol: (515)281-3221

HOME ADDRESS
1770 Hale Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001
Home: (319) 582-5922

House of Representatives
STATE OF IOWA
Seventy-Fifth General Assembly
STATE CAPITOL
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

MAY 27 '94
Legislative Service Bureau

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Appropriations
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Health and Human Rights,
Ranking Member

Harold Van Maanen
Speaker of the House
Co-chair Legislative Council
State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RECEIVED
MAY 26 1994
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Dear Mr. Speaker,

On behalf of many people in Dubuque county I would like to request the Legislative Council look at an Interim Study to review and make recommendations to the General Assembly on the Division of Adult, Children and Family Services.

We have met with a group in Dubuque, who six weeks later met with the Department of Human Services. The areas of primary concern is looking at the area of childrens rights within ACFS and making changes that better suit the children, the family and all parties involved.

The Interim would look at gathering information and making recommendations on the following but not limited to

1. Rights of Biological family and the best interest of the child. Further review of the Kempe study which was done in 1989. This may or may not involve changes including termination of parental rights.

2.Expansion of early intervention services as a means to prevent the need for more costly out of home placements that may be needed later on.

3.Review of the minimum standard of children's care as defined in the definition of CINA cases under section 232.2 of the Iowa Code and the transferring of legal custody or placement of children in section 232.102 of the Iowa Code.

4.Review of foster care placements to see if there are actions that can be taken to reduce the number of re-entries to foster care placement, so that placements only occur once or twice during a childs care.

5.To review the number of cases the Department of Human Services currently require of workers. Compare case loads

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to work loads in this state to the last twenty years and to other states. Check to see if additional federal funds can be drawn down and what is required of the state.

6.More involvement by the court to require consequences for the legal guardian and children receiving services and the possible expansion of the CASA program that exists in Polk county to other counties throughout the state. Review of overall costs etc.

7.Finally, to review truancy and set up a form of case management between foster parents, teachers, attorneys, social workers which could possibly be overviewed by the courts or other group to be set up as a form of oversight

The goal of this committee would be to have better services for children with the best interest of the child involved. To have a better form of case management from the time a child requires services from the state, whether that service is foster care, group foster care, CINA until the child is placed in the structure which best serves the welfare of that child.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Legislative Council for there consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Pat Murphy
State Representative
House District 36

cc Senator Wally Horn
Senator Leonard Boswell
Senator Jack Rife
Rep. Bob Arnould