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SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I would agree with you completely, that it's something that we should be looking at. And if there are services that we can be performing ourselves, we should be performing them. And certainly the...the consultant contract that came out in the...in the matter of Health and Human Services certainly keynotes the concerns that you have and that I have about the way that these are handled. And I think it's...it's appropriate that you bring up to us the concern about these contracts but, as you have said, it's...it's probably not to anybody's benefit to define it so narrowly that it would affect the operation of the state. So I think it's one thing to look at it; it's another thing to make something that we wish we had never talked about. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Wehrbein, on the Preister amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, I think Senator Pederson made the comments that I consider appropriate. I'm glad you're here...going to...considered withdrawing it, Senator Preister, but I do think I would agree it's probably some things we should look at. It's one of those areas that it's so broad we have difficulty over...providing oversight for so many of these areas. I, honestly, and I guess you realize your amendment is pretty overreaching and I couldn't support it under...under the circumstances as you have it written. Now, to say that we should look at it, I could agree with. I, like I say, it's hard probably in our committee would fall to look at many of these. On the other hand, there's not...there's not a platform for us to look at every possible service contracts. And certainly I think some of the serv...private contracts we have are very appropriate. Perhaps there are some that are not and that...on the other hand, it may be in the eye of the beholder whether they are appropriate or not. And I understand where you're coming from. I really rise to oppose this particular amendment because I do think it's too restrictive and overreaching. And that...can that...is that an oxymoron? (Laugh) Sounds like it could be. But it's probably something that should be looked at. We don't know the extent of it. Some things make the paper and we under...we do that, but it's not something that we have time to look at in our committee.