

you wish to close.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to echo Senator Robak's concerns. I think it's an intolerable situation to have people waiting for years, and years, and years in some cases, to get services they deserve but are unable to achieve because of the situation in our system right now. I think it's wrong. And I hope we'll achieve that goal. But recognizing the budget uncertainties that we have, we need to adopt this amendment to declare intent, but not require that action at this point. In addition, I very much regret taking the increase in county contribution out of the bill. I have been convinced that there is a need for change there, that the counties should provide more funding, that they need to provide more funding and they could provide more funding. But the uncertainties of this budget year, again, for them are overwhelming. And that issue, I think, will have to wait again until next year. So in large part this amendment takes out the major funding concerns with this bill. And with that, I hope it should have great support in passage. But it doesn't mean that I'm giving up or anybody is giving up on those two major items. I expect to continue to fight hard for them, to come back next year, and I'd expect others, as well, to work on those issues. So they're not going away, but they are going to be delayed and not be dealt with in this bill this year. With that, I'd ask for adoption of this amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard Senator Wesely's closing. We will now proceed to vote on the amendment to the amendment as offered by Senator Wesely. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Wesely's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment to the committee amendments is adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Wesely and Byars would move to amend the amended committee amendments. I have AM1567 in front of me. (Wesely-Byars amendment appears on page 1916 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wesely.