

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, just to clarify, Senator Wesely used my name in reference to what the agreement was in dealing with this amendment, and I want to clarify that belongs Senator Wesely and I have not spoken about any agreement. I..my concern earlier, and one, frankly, I still continue to feel, although I am prepared to acquiesce to what appears to be a majority of the body, is the manner in which we, as a body, have been spending our precious, most precious capital that we have, and that is our time to consider legislation. And if anything has broken down this year, it is our priority system. I am looking at the agenda. I see about three things on there that my understanding of the law is really have to be done this year. Anything else, including cigarette tax, including nurse anesthetists, and including, you know, probably frankly some of the stuff that I have pending doesn't have to happen this year. Two or three things do have to happen, and I was concerned with the process of taking eight different bills, none of which has priority status, lumping them together, dumping them on a desk, and because we had the word of the chair of the committee that they had "been worked out" with the exception of one, which may or may not be as bad as it used to be, I was more concerned about the process. It appears as though the body wants to deal with these issues at this time. I will not delay that any further. The reason I wanted to stand was I don't necessarily have any more concern or any less concern about Section 4 of LB 1278 than I do any others. And so I don't know if separating that one out for special treatment makes me any more comfortable or any less comfortable with the process that we are going through. I am still incredibly uncomfortable with the process, and I think there is a distinction between this type of procedure on a bill that was special ordered under the pretense that this particular little item has to be done, so we have to leapfrog that ahead, and the process that we utilized on Senator Lamb's bill yesterday, which was a personal priority bill that had been chosen, I, frankly, was very uncomfortable with a lot of the amendments being added to that, but at least that was on a bill that was before us. LB 1019 was a committee priority bill. I have not requested having any of my committee priority bills special ordered. This one was, and then to get it special ordered under the provision that it has to be done, and then after it leapfrogs under that argument, that then becomes the home for all of these other