

comfortable with what they have done. Despite the fact there are those who obviously feel that there should be a less amount in the budget, the way to deal with that isn't to delay the discussion, it is to offer the amendments that accomplish whatever goal you want to achieve. So I think...I think the underlying concept of a bracket is wrong. I also think the underlying amendment to the amendment is wrong, by Senator Warner. It talks about an Attorney General's Opinion from 1987 that, in my view, would circumvent the law. It would say that if we passed laws and they require certain things to be done, as I understand the language of the Warner amendment, that that law just disappears if appropriations disappear. In my view, the Legislature would be harmed and the laws that we pass would be harmed by allowing such a concept to go forward. So the underlying Warner amendment, in my view, is...is a very harmful amendment to the work of the Legislature. So I oppose the Warner amendment. I oppose the bracket motion and I support the work of the Appropriations Committee. I also want to note, as Senator Withem talked about, we went through this ten years ago with then Governor Kerrey and we did hold the bill, we did have the Appropriations Committee...

SENATOR HALL: Excuse me, Senator Wesely. (Gavel.) Members, could we hold down the conversation on the side, please, so we can hear the speaker. Thank you.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. In going through this, those of us who have been around and remember the process, as Senator Withem did, I can tell you what I think will happen. It will be a disaster for this body. You will end up with editorials and public comment and criticism of the body and the pressure being applied and we end up coming back in and the cuts you think that you want may not be forthcoming, cuts you don't want may be forthcoming, draconian cuts that we saw back then ended up having to be changed the next year or the year after because of...because of the pressures that were applied. If you want to take the pressure cooker that we're in now and turn up the heat to a point where it boils over, this amendment would do it, this motion will do it. I think we've had enough heat applied. We know that people are watching what we do on the budget and I think the...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...Appropriations Committee responded with a