

the end of June, who knows anymore, but sometime in June getting the waiver, which means we could be operational sometime later this summer, but not knowing what's happening and the uncertainty of it all, we can't really go forward and implement any change in terms of managed care for Medicaid without the waiver, so we are asking that this amendment be adopted, so we still have a time limit. The Department came and briefed the Health and Human Services Committee and said they are ready to go once we get the waivers but, again, the question is the waivers, and without knowing when that will happen, we need to change the statute. I'd be happy to answer any questions, and I move for return of the bill and the adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Maurstad, on the Wesely amendment.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Would Senator Wesely answer just a couple of questions.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Wesely, would you respond?

SENATOR WESELY: Sure.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: And you maybe touched on this, Senator, but I just wanted to reiterate it. Have the requests been filed or applied for by the department and could you...

SENATOR WESELY: The waiver requests?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yeah.

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, yeah. They were months and months ago.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay. So, basically, then what you are indicating is the federal government is holding up the process?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: In both of the situations?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, and by months and months prior to