

February 12, 1996 LB 1044

SENATOR WESELY: ...them. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, LB 1044 is a bill that I've read over many times and have watched the partnership come into place. I want to basically restate what Senator Crosby has said. This is not, at this point anyway, a savings of any tax dollars. This is only the bringing together some departments, which I think sounds very, very good. I wish it was one of those that we knew what it was going to save in the long-run, or if it was going to cost us. But if it costs us, then we can come back and say, you know, this didn't work so well. I can tell you from the field that I work in, with youth, that we need to do something to bring these departments together. I had a young man, back in September, that I did an evaluation on for the juvenile court system, who I was the fifth counselor to do a substance abuse evaluation on him in less than a year's time. One was done by Social Services, one was done by the Department of Health, one was done by...when he was ser...doing...in one of the institutions, out at Geneva, and another one was done by another court system. This kind of stuff is happening all the time. It only makes sense that we bring these together and take a look at how it's going to work. I wish I could stand here and tell you how it's going to look in three years. But I think this is one of them places where I'm going to take the chance and say let's give it a try. The bringing together can't cost us, it just can't. And if it... I know how other bureaucracies work, I've learned a lot in the last four years. But it's something that we need to do to see what we can do to downsize. And this at least is a chance to bring that together. And it's my understanding, as I read the thing, it will not cost us at this point. And it's got the potential, the potential to bring the servic...give us better services for maybe even less money. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President, colleagues. Senator Wesely, if you could respond to a couple questions. And I want to make clear at the outset that my comments aren't intended to be construed as either for or against what we're working on right here. I think that there's a great deal that