

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Klein, I appreciate that. Actually I punched my light on, trying to use the time to think of what I was going to say. And you hit me with it a little more quickly. But I, I, like Senator Wesely, Senator Klein, would, in fact, oppose the Beutler amendment. I think the remarks, I'm going to try to remember what I said on the bill in General, on General File. If you remember we were talking at that time, people wanting assurances that the bill would do this, that it would do that, that all of the i's would be dotted and the t's would be crossed. And I think Senator Wesely was very clear with people that that's just flat out not going to happen. But the alternative is really to preserve the current system. The current system being one where an individual that has a prob...that has a, does not have enough income, is a single parent, has to go to the Department of Social Services and qualify for Aid to Dependent Children and then probably another window for the food stamps. Then if their child happens to have some diagnosed mental health problem, they have to interface with the Department of Public Institutions. And if that young person then gets into some difficulties and has to, has to go in front of the juvenile justice system, there's yet another system that they go in front of. And we don't deal with people, we deal with symptoms. We deal with specific facts, and one hand that's helping this individual that doesn't have any idea what the other hand is doing. By passing 1044 in the fashion in which it's drafted, and yes, we are going to have to pass future legislation to pass the specifics, and we can certainly deal with those. But by indicating the plan has to be before us next, beginning of next session, we are telling those individuals out there, who are entrenched within the agencies, and those agencies that are...and those advocacy groups that are supporting those individuals, that they are going to have to make this new system work. If we support the July amendment what we end up doing is telling them, don't worry, if you don't get what you want during this summer in the negotiations, just go to your senator, get an amendment, and we will delay this thing and keep the whole thing from happening. We really don't have a choice as to whether we move or not if we want to continue to provide services to the individuals in our state at some reasonable price. We've got to make a change. This is the change before us. There's absolutely no reason why we ought to delay. I would oppose the Beutler amendment, ask you to do so also.