

## SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I had lots of difficulties with the time frame issue that we're talking about. I offered the amendment in committee to make the change. And I felt, since that time, that we should make that change and do it in July. But I've done a turn around on that and I'm not going to support Senator Beutler's amendment because I think that...I'd like to tell you about some of the things that have happened to me. I've been on the Health and Human Services Committee for eight years this year and I've been privy to an awful lot of hearings and, about bills that affect the Health Committee...the health, Department of Health and Department of Social Services, and also DPI and Department of Aging. So I've known and been involved with and had conversations with people from all these agencies over these eight years and I have to say my relationship with the directors have been very good. These directors have all been in my office, at their request, since 1044 was introduced. They knew that I had some difficulties with it, the time was part of it, the confidentiality was part of it. They have invited themselves to my office so it wasn't that I asked them to come over. Every one of the department heads have been there to talk to me about my concerns. Yesterday, many of you don't remember Senator Jackie Smith, but I do, and she was one of the very respected members of this body, respected by everybody, I think, made appointment to visit with me, she came with the current director, Dennis Loose, from the Department of Aging. And so we had a long discussion, spent about an hour talking about this issue in my office. And one of the things I brought up was this time frame. Senator Smith told me that she felt we should stay with the time frame that's in the legislation. That absolutely essential as far as accomplishing what this bill accomplishes to not make any changes like that, that we should not change the dates. I have confidence all of our department chairmen, or heads. I especially have confidence in what Senator Smith told me. And I, I think many of you would too if you had the chance to visit with her about it. It's...I think it's a giant undertaking, this whole 1044 process. I think it's a tremendously big undertaking. And I think that what's happened, that I can see, is that these department heads are talking