

session to get a bill through the, particularly the Health Committee. We know how they operate over in the Health Committee, seriously in the committee where the Chair has been the principal sponsor of this measure, to get any serious modifications through, so where we may end up is a deadlock over the summer without an ability and not enough time during the next legislative session to accomplish that. I like the January 1st date because I think it does...the Legislature by 1044 will be adopting the broad policy. We will be telling individuals that they won't be able to come in next session and go backwards. We will, next session, obviously be in a position where we will be able to make the important modifications that we need to, but we won't be able to move backwards. I think that the March 15th deadline is...has a serious problem and I will not be voting for it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Wesely, followed by Senators Chambers, Maurstad, Abboud, and Dierks.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. I guess Senator Withem really echoed the concerns that we had talked about the last time we looked at this issue with Senator Beutler. The whole dynamic changes when you go any date beyond January 1st, and I understand the concern and appreciate it. We did seriously consider whether or not to delay the actual date the transfer occurred and decided that once again the dynamic of moving forward of January 1 is sort of like making the decision today and knowing that we're going to not turn around and in the first few weeks of the next session reverse course and thus the whole dynamic of working to make things positively result from this process versus those who are reluctant, maybe kind of laying some land mines out there. We want this to work. We want people to work together. We want the attitude to be this is going to happen so let's all work together to make it happen the right way. That, again, whether it's March 15th or July 1, that's what changes and that's what's important to me. I think, I am sorry, Senator Chambers give my historical reference right but cross the Rubicon is a term that was used to denote that when you cross that river you are not turning back, you're going forward and that's, essentially, what we're talking about here. We are going to cross Rubicon. We are going to make a change in these agencies on January 1. It does tie our hands to that degree, but there is so much that happens after that date that we'll look at next session, and in the years beyond that, that