

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that this bill is on a greased track, I do want the record to show how careless, how grossly negligent in fact the Legislature has shown itself to be. This bill and the way it's handled indicates one of the reasons I will not be a member of a political party, you sell your soul and they own you. You lose your self-respect. You have to give up your ability to think, and you have to follow along a party line that in any other situation you know would make you look foolish and you would refuse to do it. But I guess if sheep were not to be shorn or fleeced, they would not have been created sheep.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you very much, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in support of the Maurstad amendment and in support of a lot of things that have been said in support of this amendment. It is beyond me why we need to do something like this, this year. This bill is entirely a concept, it puts forth a concept. It hires more people, it will probably have...be asking for money along the line here. But there's nothing in this that they can't do without the passage of this bill. So, really, I'm...I guess I'm set to either...I tried to amend the bill on areas of concern, I did not do anything about the intent language, although the intent language seems to me to be asking for universal health care, which is defeated overwhelmingly in the United States of America. So I don't necessarily want to go in that direction. That's their intent language in the bill. If that's the direction that this entire concept is going to go in, I will be opposed to it. But I don't have any serious opposition, other than the fact that this bill doesn't give us anything to be seriously opposed to, other than the fact that they're setting up something that we don't have any idea what they're setting up. So all of our opposition has been we are opposed to something because you are not being clear about what you want to do, you are not giving us an actual piece of legislation, you're giving us a concept here. We are legislators and you are asking us to legislate a concept. So your...my opposition has been give us something that we can legislate and make a decision on. Senator Maurstad's amendment would give us something, in January, that we can discuss legislatively for three months and then decide whether that's the direction that we want to go into, not some green bill concept that is very difficult for many of us who do want to streamline and find some efficiencies in these areas, not