

SENATOR WITEK: And if you don't vote for the Avery amendment, you are taking my opportunity to approve or disapprove it and every single person on this floor's opportunity to approve or disapprove it away. You will never have the opportunity after 1044 is implemented to approve or disapprove. You'll have...you would put in a defensive position of changing something here or there, you'll have to bring through specific legislation to do so, it's much more difficult. So they have, with the implementation of 1044, if you don't adopt the Avery amendment the departments have the upper hand here. And I think usurping your responsibility to decide what is best for the state of Nebraska is not good policy. So I will be voting for this portion of the Avery amendment because I want to retain my responsibility and my judgement on this issue on whether this plan, when we get it back in January, will be what's best for the state of Nebraska. I will not, I will not wish this away with the passage of 1044. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Withem, on the Avery amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, Madam President and members of the body. I have a number of questions here. Looking at this language here I'm not really sure what it does. And I'd like to ask Senator Avery at least what the intention of the language is.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Avery, will you yield for a question?

SENATOR AVERY: Yes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: First of all, it talks about the Legislature shall vote to approve or disapprove. In what form is that vote going to take? Do you envision a bill will be introduced? A resolution? Or we come in here one morning and just vote on whether we like the plan or not? Procedurally, how is this vote going to take place?

SENATOR AVERY: Generally it will take place, it could be resolution as well as bills. As the department has said, they'll bring..likely there could be several bills that will be involved in the transition plan.

SPEAKER WITHEM: But this says we're going to specifically vote