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defensible conclusion. Now, if you go on, you could certainly argue that the study may have been incomplete; that it should have or that the task force would have liked for the study to examine some other issues, namely customer service issues and so on. But I think there is a way to avoid this study being a waste of \$100,000 of state money and that would be to commit to utilizing economies of size in childcare operations and also to the economies of information technology. I think it is quite reasonable to go on to ask the question,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...well, if we do that, how do we maintain the level of customer service that we want? How do the other components fit in? But, from my perspective, I think it is not sensible to go back over the ground of whether or not there are economies of size in childcare services. I think it is very, very clear that they are. I would also mention that...that there may be some possibility that the state would gain more by moving quickly in this direction rather than trying to do a delay in order to avoid the penalty. I would certainly suggest that we specifically direct any additional study to go beyond the conclusions that we already have come upon. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Brown, on the Kristensen amendment.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am very compelled by what Senator Raikes just said and would like to follow up on it. There has...there's been discussion, and it's sort of like going back over plowed ground, but about the task force and about the study and the thing that...that is worrisome to me about the process that I believe that we're going to undertake, either with my amendment or with the Kristensen amendment, is that we are going to delay for a year and continue to have some of the same work that was supposed to have been done by the task force. The task force was charged to look at how we did a central disbursement unit, and SDU. And, unfortunately, what happened is that they got into discussing "whether" and arguing about some of the same things that we agonized about on General File. The problems that people have had with the study have been attributed to people within our