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LB 637

when we made some changes in LB 637, that we weren't ready to resolve those this year, and so we put in place a process that keeps us in good faith with the federal government and yet allows us to move forward. And I think that we have done good work. But I also think we have to be very careful about proceeding, that we do it in a way that...that says that we are doing it in concert, we are doing it in concert with the federal government, and we're doing it in concert with the administration of this state, which is supposed to run the agencies of this state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. I rise to support this amendment, certainly for discussion purposes. They need to know that we are paying attention down here. As far as separation of power, that's obviously not at issue, according to Senator Kristensen. There are RFPs out already for some of this work. They were out last week, before the bill even got to Select File, I believe. So...and I think that they are multiyear contracts. So what I want to be adamant about is that they must remain accountable. And I know that Senator Brown has made the argument that administration also is going to hold them accountable, of course, too. But I think it's important on an issue of this scope, that the Legislature be accountable. We're going to take a lot of...field a lot of questions, and I hope not a lot of criticism for what we're doing here. But I would support this amendment and hope that we could consider it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. If we were at a...at a...in a national average on our compliance with child support payment and collection, I could see we would need to move ahead with this a lot quicker than what we are. But, hopefully, we can improve on our 67 percentile collection system we have in this state. I still think that we can comply with the federal statutes, not only with just one agency. I still believe that we're going to find that we can...we can maybe establish a different agency, a new agency and not just go with one that we have. But this will all