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been consistent on this bill as it was introduced this session. Before I came to the Legislature, I worked on the merger of the Health and Human Services agencies and also was a part of the administration, as Senator Crosby said, where this was discussed making this a separate agency. So I bring a little bit of history of working with the issues that surround this, and the reason I oppose this is because I believe a lot of the concerns that are being raised on why this should be an independent agency are more administrative in nature and not ones that are policy driven. I think it's appropriate that this group, like a lot of other populations that have specialized services, stay with the department. I think there are advantages to having them stay with the department, some of those just by virtue of the fact that there are a lot of administrative services that can serve the group. Whether that's the way they want to have...be administered or not is probably the question they have. But I believe there is an advantage to having it part of the Health and Human Services agency in terms of coordination and collaboration, but also many issues that a lot of agencies have to get independent information, maybe hire outside counsel and so forth to deal with, are available from the department. But I also think, if we start to dismantle this agency, and I guess I share Senator Wickersham's concerns that when agencies become independent and we aren't certain of what the fiscal impact of that is, that creates an additional stress that we may have to face in the future, both "budgetarily" and in terms of the possibility that as much funding may not be available. I think it isn't appropriate to dismantle Health and Human Services; and some people don't see this as dismantling, but it's the beginning of peeling off the agencies. I think it's appropriate that this agency be with the Department of Health and Human Services and that is the reason I'm not supporting LB 352. I believe that a lot of the issues, I've listened to the hearings and studies on this, and what I heard in the hearings I believe are administrative issues, they can be worked out. I think the people at HHS have made an effort to work them out and things can be addressed there, that it doesn't need to be separate. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Bromm, on the advancement of LB 352.