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and Kate Allen from Senator Preister's office, and the reason I think they need to be singled out is because there have truly been more editions of this amendment than we would like to count, and it's very unusual, I think, for a bill to go through so many transformations, but that's what happened on this bill. I think that we have a very good work product here. It may not go quite as far as some would have liked but, on the other hand, I think that we are definitely going to have some progress in ascertaining where exactly all these contracts are and how much they are for, and we will have a better handle on the kinds of money that we are spending and be able to evaluate whether that is money well spent or if we would be better off actually putting some of those work situations in the hands of state employees. I think this is a very, very important bill, and I don't think that probably there's a realization here that this is really going to be a bill that is, in the long run, going to help us better manage the state's money and the state's budget. So I would, in closing, and I don't want to elaborate on this too long, but in closing I would very definitely like to thank Senator Preister, who has been very persistent and very determined about this issue and he has been willing to make concessions, and I think that is what is necessary sometimes to be successful. So thank you, Senator Preister, and I just encourage the adoption of AM1421. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Preister amendment. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Quandahl. Senator Byars, I'm sorry, you're first. Sorry about that.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I know there's been a tremendous amount of hard work that's gone into this and I've heard all the thank-yous and certainly appreciate all those, and I'm sorry I'm going to have to have...pour cold water on your parade, Senator Preister, but I'm being told, just within the last few minutes, that not everybody has been at the table in this situation. The developmental disabilities community are not comfortable with language in this amendment at this point. They have some real questions. The regional providers of services, the private providers of services and, like I said, this has just been brought to me within the last