

you. Senator Landis, then Senator Chizek, then Senator Warner. Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is the tail on the dog, I guess, and I support the bracketing motion and intend to vote for it for several reasons. There are a couple of issues, a couple of real basic issues in 1250. Unfortunately they are tied together in a way that doesn't allow us to talk about them separately, very easily. One is the 3 percent for state employees, and another one is how are we going to respond to this CIR ruling and the relationship of state government to its employees. Because those two issues are tied together the bill is very vulnerable. And it also makes the state employees salary increase a political issue that becomes tied to the bargaining issue. The only way, I think, to position ourselves to discuss those two issues separately is to have the mainline appropriation bills move, get a clear picture of where we are for revenue, get a clear picture of where we are for the size of the budget, talk about the size of the state employee raise, its time, and then separately deal with some of the terms that are in 1250. I find, for example, personally that there is a provision in 1250 that says in essence we have to delay bargaining for at least a couple of years and, because we are going to be into biennial budgeting session, it is possible for three years. That seems to me to be too long of a delay. I want to be able to argue those issues straight up without endangering the question of the state employees salary. So I support the bracketing motion. I think it will allow us to do this, it will allow us to know what we've done to the mainline appropriation bills, it will let us know how much money we have, it will put into clear prospective whether we are going to have the 3 percent at the beginning of the year, whether the delay makes sense, or anything else like that, and we can do that salary increase issue straight up. It will also give us a little more time to think about what the appropriate kind of CIR response this body wants to make. And because I think it helps the timing and the structuring of these very important public policy issues, because I think this amendment allows us to treat our employees well, and it allows us to know where we stand better, I support the motion. I hope the body will as well, and that we can get onto the main issue with respect to the cost to state government which is the operations bill, 1251. There is \$822 million in that bill, and that is the one that we ought