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I would be happy to answer any questions. I'd also like to go to the committee amendments, if you don't mind.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Please continue with committee amendments, Senator. (AM0426 appears on page 704 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WESELY: On the committee amendments, as I mentioned, Section 41 and 42 deal with the Ombudsman's Office being able to investigate those who carry out work of state government that are contracted for. And the difference here is in the past the Ombudsman's Office has been able to investigate state agencies and state departments, and on behalf of the citizens, when there are problems, deal with those problems. But we have ended up in the state, over the years, having so many subcontractors that are doing work for the state, and the question is, can the Ombudsman intervene and assist citizens who have complaints regarding these individuals? This clarifies that in fact the Ombudsman's Office will have that authority. We clarify, in the committee amendment, that the Materiel Division, which is included in the original bill, is deleted, and long-term care is deleted, because we already have an Ombudsman, long-term care Ombudsman established under the Aging Department. So the committee amendment clarifies that and still allows the thrust of the bill, which is that the Ombudsman's Office can investigate these contracted services for citizens. We also clarify another issue that came to us were mental health practitioners. There was a problem with meeting certain qualifications and it wasn't clear in the language in the original bill how that would be accomplished. The committee amendments clarify there's a one-year window of opportunity for individuals to meet those licensure standards that unfortunately had a circumstance that didn't allow that. There was only one case we know of that this would apply to. But we are trying to accommodate the inadvertent problem there. So, with that, I'd ask for adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Is there any discussion of the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Wesely, do you wish to close? Closing is waived. The question before the body is the adoption of the committee amendments to