

need to come together that we weren't able to get done last session during the study. So those things get kicked off with the Governor and moving forward on those. Then we ask the Department of Social Services to start the process of developing the waiver request, and, as you recall last year on the Medicaid issue, it takes forever to get the waivers developed and then you apply for them and you get all this discussion and back and forth, and so you will end up starting that process and, hopefully, I mean, the best case scenario would be to have something approved before the end of next session, hopefully, by the start of the next session. But I must tell you it is a long and difficult process that we're going down. That's why you want to start with something this year to get that...that going because it will not happen quickly. So the waiver requests go in. We get a copy of the waivers. The studies go forward to get a copy of the reports and the information that's developed answering our questions that we're identifying here. Then next session we come back, in all of those elements in the welfare reform proposal there's a section that says nothing can be implemented until the Legislature approves of whatever plan comes forward from the federal government in conjunction with the state Department of Social Services. So what I see happening is that almost always these plans get amended and changed and adjusted. Plans that have come in from Wisconsin and Florida didn't look anything like what they started off to be when they came out. So we'll have to come back and reintroduce a bill using this as a base but making changes and adjustments, seeing fully more the information Senator Chambers and others have asked for. So I see us working through this issue next session and having a lot of the issues we are talking about today laid out again but with much more knowledge in terms of additional studies and information, what the federal government will allow us to do. The federal reform efforts on welfare are just beginning to show themselves publicly. We see more and more coming forward probably this summer, a plan on welfare reform at the federal level. So we will have to come back and readdress all this. But this is the right way to go in starting that effort and to make sure that we're on track and not heading all over the place but kind of focused in with the idea that, again, we can take action or not action as we desire next session and revisit the issue. So this amendment clarifies that, makes it even more apparent. But that is, in fact, what I have always thought we would do and why I think we have to move forward this year to lay the groundwork for the future. So I do support the Rasmussen amendment. Thank you.