

motion with the understanding that perhaps many of you have reservations about this bill. But, nevertheless...and I do as well, but, nevertheless, it seems to me that some attention has to be paid to the issue. More information is needed, more action is needed, and perhaps there is a middle ground. Now the Health and Human Services Committee,...

SENATOR LAMB: Your time is up, Senator.

SENATOR WESELY: ...last week, discussed this matter and we're more than willing to sit down with Senator Johnson and other interested parties and see what resolution we can bring to the issue.

SENATOR LAMB: Before we go to the next of our six speakers on our agenda, let's welcome to the Legislature guests of Senator Remmers, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Johnson and Gladys Koepfel of Auburn, Nebraska, under the south balcony. Would you people stand and be recognized. The Chair recognizes Senator Smith to address the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to raise one more point. A lot of other people have talked about a lot of other things, and I'm not going to spend time going over what they've already said. You know I could talk here about how I have a concern about those folks, too, but I'm not going to address any of that. I'm going to talk about a point that was brought to me which I think that those people who reside in counties or in the part of the state where you don't have the opportunity for competition among hospitals reside. This point that was brought to me was if a county is in an area that has a competitive medical hospital marketplace, there is a possibility that there is some bargaining power on the part of the county as to the medical payment schedule. But in a county that does not have a competitive facility available most could pay more than the Medicaid rate. In other words there will be, and this was...I remember hearing you say a little bit ago, Senator Langford, you know, what is the upgrade, well this is what we're talking about here, that the rate would be higher than what Medicaid pays that the hospital would be charging and the counties would have no other alternative than to pick up that cost. So that is something else that we need to take into consideration when we are viewing this concern about what cost is this going to entail as far as counties are concerned. Thank you.