

This amendment, I think, would attempt to address that, would begin to get that information out to the public, and, again, I think we would be well served by it. The amendment is number 1513 and it is in your Journal, and it also has been distributed to you. I hope you will have a chance to look at it and consider what we can do here, because until we get the information, until we know what is happening, we will not find that we are going to make much progress on the cost issue. The morbidity part of the data is an attempt to get a handle on that problem that came up with the Bergan and St. Joe issue. We don't know the quality of care being provided out there. For instance, as we tried to look at the issue of what open heart surgery operations, how they are doing now in Omaha versus what might happen with Bergan coming in, we don't have the kind of data we need, so we know who is successful and who isn't. When we go into a hospital, what is the result? What kind of a success rate do they have? This sort of information would be invaluable to people to be able to know where they want to go when they need surgery, when they need assistance from the health care industry. And so for both the financial aspect and the quality aspect, this amendment would help us get a better handle on the issue and I would ask your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion. Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise in opposition to the Wesely amendment. I think that, you know, I can understand some of his frustration with not having the right facts and figures available to do all of the things that we need to do. I know that the Education Committee, in my five years there, has experienced some of the same kinds of frustration, not having the right kinds of statistics and data available to make some of the decisions that we need to, but I think this goes too far. I think it calls for way too much data and gives an awful lot of leeway to the department in making the hospitals meet all kinds of deadlines and filing all kinds of things that I don't know that are all that necessary. I think that one of the things that you need to realize is this is the form right now that hospitals fill out. This is the Medicare cost form, cost report. This cost report is filled out by all of the hospitals. This cost report goes to the Department of Social Services, and then is available to the Department of Health, and they can use this information out of this report that they file right now. I don't think that it is necessary that we add any