

bulking the two together and running them together but, as it's turned out since, my district just by coincidence happens to have been fallen in now and be very definitely affected by the part of this amendment that would put a moratorium on certificate of needs. Beatrice Community Hospital that has become a regional health care center has worked very hard to develop a strategic plan of what we're going to do to complete the nineties and going into the next century to address health care. One of the critical problems we're beginning to be faced with is the shortage of primary care physicians, as other areas of the state have been, what we're going to do with our elderly and as we have less need for acute beds, acute care beds, how we're going to stretch our hospitals to deal with that. We have been well run. We have been well administered and well supported by our community. We, ahead of other communities, merged our hospitals so that we brought them together to provide one health care center in our communities serving southeast Nebraska. And, as it turns out now, coincidentally, our hospital is now beginning the certificate of need process to restructure the way we provide health care in southeast Nebraska. If this portion of 827 were to be passed in its present form, that would put that project on hold for as long as it takes to set up the regional planning process. How long will that be? Six months, a year, a year and a half, is some of the estimates that I hear. We're faced with a primary need shortage of physicians, very acute right now, getting worse daily. We're starting a very vigorous recruitment program that's tied into changes in the way the hospital is organized and part of this whole process. So not only has it become a philosophical thing with me from several years ago but now my community is very substantially affected if we put a moratorium on the CON right now and I...I just...I don't want to see that happen. It would be...it would be a crisis situation in my community and in southeast Nebraska. I have some problems with the funding sources here. We've passed some cigarette tax allocations last week. This adds additional cigarette taxes. As I was opposed to those measures, I'm opposed to it now. I don't think it's a steady revenue source. As revenues decline, we're going to have to come back for General Fund dollars to...as these dollars are designated...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...toward these...toward the establishment of these regional planning councils. I think we need to come up