

CON, if we're going to keep CON, for ambulatory surgical facilities. It should not be less though than what hospitals can currently spend without having to go through CON for just purchases of equipment. Explain to me how a 900 thousand dollar floor for hospitals is cost effective when we make an ambulatory surgical facility, which is only going to be half a million dollars, go through the process, then be rejected. And, frankly, I believe be rejected because the arguments were made that it's going to be competitive toward an existing facility, one that was given birth because the hospital basically wrote off an old operating room. I mean, that's what we're talking about. They were in place. They were existing. So, in other words, if you're in the market, we're going to protect you. We're going to give you a monopoly on the business. We're going to ensure that you don't have to compete at any given level, that you won't have competition out there that will do as good a job, hopefully, do it for less money, you can just continue status quo, as you have for years. You continue to lumber along, have the same number of hospital beds that we've had for years in the Omaha example and you will continue to use those as arguments for why you need to continue to have increased costs in the case of medical expenses, why the revenues have to go up, why you need to have expanded facilities, why you need to have more equipment so that you can do things better, more efficient, on down the line. But the individual type of operation, no matter what the health profession may be, should have to walk through these hoops from day one, dollar one, and that's where I have a very strong objection to the route that we're taking with this amendment. We're saying that the little guy is going to be treated differently in this area. We're going to say that, as public policy, the independent ambulatory surgical facility is not as cost efficient, cannot be as cost efficient for purposes of CON...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...as an existing hospital operation. That's really what we're saying here. Nothing could be farther from the truth, ladies and gentlemen, nothing could be farther from the truth. And what we would do with Senator Wesely's amendment is we would enshrine that in statute. We would say that you have the ability, hospitals, to go about your purchase frenzy up to \$900,000. That's already the law. We're just going to tie in now a new definition of ambulatory surgical facility that keeps doctors from doing in their offices, through that