

we are doing is wrong. I don't think this is necessary. I think health care costs in this state have been skyrocketing and we are only going to be contributing further to the problem, and the veterans of this state are not going to be better served as a result. Let's talk about the veterans of this state. They strongly support this proposal. They like the idea of being together and I like the idea too, but the real fundamental concern should be, are they being cared for properly? Are they provided with the nursing care and the medical care that they deserve? Are they destitute at this point? Are they forgotten? And they are not...not today and they won't be tomorrow. But with this proposal, what you are basically doing is setting up a special situation for them that is going to cost everybody else in the state a little more. I mean, not a great amount. I mean, the world isn't going to end as a result of this, but look at that A bill that is going to be coming up in a minute. You are talking about a lot of money basically. Maybe it doesn't mean a lot to some of you, but close to a million dollars in costs are going to be coming right on our shoulders when we are having so many difficulties meeting current needs. I don't think we can afford it, and I don't think we need it. I urge your opposition to the bill although I know that is a fruitless exhortation but at the same time I certainly offer you my concern about this legislation and hope that you will carefully consider it. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fitzgerald, you are now recognized to close on the motion to advance the bill.

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Mr. Speaker and members, we are talking about the rest homes, both associations are backing the bill. I don't know where our Senator gets the information. Senator Newell's organization and the organization that Mr. Rasmussen represents, they are backing the bill. Now he is one individual. He says the veterans are getting everything. The veterans ain't getting anything they do not deserve. These veterans went over and fought for you people. Let's recognize them. They went over during World War I and World War II. They sacrificed. I gave four years of my young life, and I am very very fortunate. I know my financial obligations. I will never be able to get into a rest home. I am one of the unfortunate ones. But now, this man, one Senator gets up here and speaks against these veterans. These veterans fought for their country. Now we want to give them a little dignity and self-respect and put them in a home. Now this home here, is not going to cost a million dollars. I wish Senator Wesely would go up and look at the place. He talks and he has no facts whatsoever to come up with these here facts, these figures