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LB 249

don't understand that reasoning. Let's face it, everybody that is an elected official today, we all have to defend ourselves because people don't trust politicians. I can remember one politician they compared to as saying, would you buy a used car from this man. I'd just ask you to consider the fact that there is more than meets the eye, and I just think in fairness I should tell you about that hearing that I was present at and that the people that were cross-examined did honestly tell that they studied those bills and if they had their notes in front of them then they would know exactly why they took the action they did. I, myself, couldn't sit down and tell you right now about those certificate of need bills and the difference between them and why I picked one over the other, and I see those bills every day. Thank you, Senators.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to LB 249 for a number of reasons. Having served for three years now on the Public Health Committee, I have had an opportunity to work very closely with the Health Department in the State of Nebraska. We have worked primarily working on the certificate of need bill which was referred to previously by Senator Higgins and others. That effort led me to believe that the Health Department is, in fact, a very hard working department, one concerned about consumers in the State of Nebraska and one which we can be proud of and not, in fact, one which we need to change to the status of to place it under the Governor for whatever reasons may be cited today. I think that is quite clear from my experience that their independence was very much a factor that was good because of the fact that they had that independence, they were able to speak out on behalf of the consumers of the state who have to pay high health care costs, and I doubt that if in the status of a code agency they would have felt the ability to speak out as they did on that issue on that legislation. And so I saw that example of where their independent status was, in fact, a positive influence on the state and on this Legislature, I think, because of the information they provided. I think that we saw it with the efforts that they undertook. Senator Marvel participated on a review of the CCU unit at the Regional Center here in Lincoln, with their efforts to try and look into that matter and their persistence in trying to see that something resulted from that that would serve the clients that were being neglected and held in restraints there without much