

but when they are adopted, let's assume they are going to be adopted, get them back to committee for a hearing or reject them at this time and indicate back to the committee you said you were going to introduce a bill and have a hearing, let's have you introduce that bill, let's have a hearing on these issues. Now Senator Cullan through the substance of these amendments is basically taking the next step in a series of steps that have occurred in the past year to weaken, weaken, weaken the certificate of need process which we have established, again, in 1979 in this state. First off we had the Health Department bill last session which went under the Governor as a result of that piece of legislation Senator Cullan passed. Now why did that occur? Well, I think it occurred...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. That occurred I think to try and weaken the Health department in this whole area of certificate of need in reviewing health care cost expenditures. Well, Senator Cullan was successful and that was done and so that step was taken. The next step occurred this fall when Governor Thone asked for and was granted the right to eliminate HSAs, again weakening the certificate of need process, weakening those who have supported this effort to have a strong certificate of need to keep health care costs down. Again, that step was taken. Now what is this step he is proposing. This step is to again weaken the Health Department's role even further and to say that this Advisory Committee will make the decisions and this appeal board will still exist to appeal to and what we have basically done is gutted the bill with these amendments. You can talk all you want to about citizen input but the citizen input was there at the HSA level. That was eliminated. Now they are using that argument to weaken the Health Department's role and to gut the certificate of need process. I oppose the amendment and ask your opposition as well.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I am sure those of you who were here three years ago can well recall the hours we spent on the floor and in committee on the certificate of need legislation, and you can well recall how enormously complex these issues are. We had economists and sociologists and all sorts of people advising us in how to best approach this legislation. It took this body several weeks of deliberations, a number of long floor debates, and we finally came up with a bill then that over forty