

with the Appeal Board at the state level is that the citizens are overwhelmed by these facts and are not able to make a decision that realizes all the different ramifications, and usually, and in the case of the Appeals Board, always vote in favor of the provider's position and not so much in favor of the public's side of the issue which is to keep costs down and to decide against duplication and waste in expenditures in health care. Now this is an indication of the savings, the \$10 million is one indication, but more than that this process has kept away from it even proposals that are very questionable in cost in health care expansion and equipment. There are many proposals that would have been made, many projects that would have been undertaken that would have not been of benefit to the state that were not even proposed to this review process because they knew there wasn't justification there to proceed and they knew they were going to be rejected and so they didn't even try to go through it. So millions more dollars were saved that we can't even estimate at this time by projects that were not even attempted to go through the process because they were so weak but in old circumstances without a process probably would have been attempted and perhaps pursued. If you weaken the bill you have the same thing happen over again. Some of these projects that just are very questionable would be proposed and quite frankly could go through the process because it is so weak and we would see additional expenditures. Senator Dworak talked about health care costs. Certainly we have seen health care costs continue to rise.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. What this bill has done is kept that increase from being even greater than it has been. That is the point of this process. The millions that we have saved would have been spent, would have been additional expenditures, would have made health care costs even worse if we hadn't had this process. So, yes, we did not stop health care costs from going up. There is no way we can do that with inflation but we kept waste and inefficiency and duplications of services to a minimum and tried to keep those costs down as much as we can. I think in the end there are so many other issues and so many other facts that could be shared with you, I think the strongest argument is in favor of keeping a strong CON process at this time. I would ask you again to reject the amendments, or if you have to, if you have made a commitment to support the amendments, at least recognize the need to send them back to committee for hearing.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Sieck.