

SENATOR CLARK: The previous question has been asked for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 13 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate is not ceased. Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to support the motion to refer the amendment and bill back to committee for a public hearing. Senator Cullan was very generous and kind and thoughtful, I mean that sincerely, when he said that he was open on his amendments, that he was prepared to negotiate with other members of the Legislature for changes to his amendments, that he felt that there was some places where changes could be in order and the like, and I frankly would want to be one of the negotiators simply because I have had a longstanding interest in our certificate of need legislation, as I know Senator Wesely has had, Senator Hoagland has had, Senator Schmit has had, and around down the line. But in all honesty, in all honesty to be a good negotiator, I have to understand precisely what the issues are, and to understand precisely what the issues are, I need very simply for members of the affected public to come forward at an appropriate time to express their points of view on a piece of legislation. And if we hear from members of the affected public that this provision is a bad provision because, for example, the appeals tribunal is to consist of four lay persons and three professional individuals and all are to be appointed by the Governor and it may be overly political, then that is a point of view that I will want to use as I negotiate the process, but without going through the formal public hearing process, those points of views have no organized method of being expressed, and for that reason it becomes difficult for me, as one of the players in this drama, to really carefully articulate a position because I can't understand precisely what all the positions are because I really haven't heard from the public, and that has occurred because we have not had a public hearing. Secondly, you know you and I truly are not all the players in this process. We really do have to think about the insurance companies that are going to pay the bill. We do have to think about the people that are going to use the hospitals and the nursing homes that are going to be paying the bill. We have to think about the taxpayers that are going to be picking up the freight when it comes to medicare and medicaid and to just plain indigency care. There are a lot of people