

who are extraordinarily concerned today about health care costs, nationally and in Nebraska, and for us to foreclose an opportunity for those individuals to come forward and express themselves on this very significant piece of legislation does an injustice to our deliberative process and does an injustice to some individuals who truly want to have an active voice in the drama. It is for that reason that I genuinely believe that referring this amendment and bill back to the committee for a public hearing does full and complete service to the negotiational process, to the legislative process, and more importantly to the democratic process.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President and Senators, I don't want to take a lot of time here. I think you already know that I agree that we should have a public hearing on these amendments. I have been visiting with Senator Cal Carsten and Senator Carsten tells me that back in 1979 when you originally started the certificate of need bill that you reached an impasse in this Legislature and he sat down and more or less with both sides. They began to work together to understand it clearly on both sides and Senator Carsten was somewhat of an arbitrator so that when you got all through you came out with a certificate of need bill that was more or less acceptable to both sides and I am wondering if we can't do something like that now, return the bill to committee. Senator Cullan, I give you my word I want to sit down and understand this clearly with you. You are a good enough debator and attorney and I think you know me well enough to know that if I think something is right I am going to vote with you. I really would like to do this. I would like to see the public have some input in it as well as the other Senators and I really would like to have your explanation of the amendment, even if you want to vote to send it into executive session and go over it but I prefer a public hearing but I would go for anything just to have time enough to really understand this. I don't want to go back to my constituents and say I voted for something that was bad or I failed to vote for something that was good. So I hope you will consider that, Senators. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I will be brief. Again I ask a major question that you should ask yourself in deciding whether to send this back to committee or not. Do you know what is in the