

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 378 was a bill introduced by the Public Health Committee. (Title read.) The bill was read on January 19 of last year. It was referred to Public Health for hearing. Mr. President, the bill was advanced to General File. The Legislature considered the bill last week on January 14. At that time there was an amendment offered by Senator Marsh that was adopted. There were amendments offered by Senator Cullan that were adopted. A motion was made by Senator Wesely to indefinitely postpone the bill, Mr. President. That motion is now before us.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely, to indefinitely postpone 378.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, well, there are two days left in the period in which we can introduce new pieces of legislation. I think the most appropriate step at this time would be to kill this bill and to direct the Public Health and Welfare Committee to introduce the legislation it had indicated it would introduce which was then adopted in the form of an amendment to this bill by Senator Cullan. It seems to me the process should be with major changes in this proposal that have been adopted now that we had a bill that is drafted in six part, it is ready to go. Why not just have the committee, as we indicated we would, introduce the bill, hold a hearing and advance the bill and deal with it in that manner rather than dealing with this piece of legislation so heavily amended on General File without a public hearing. I put the kill motion on not because I didn't think there was some value to some of the changes Senator Cullan incorporated in his amendments and there are some good things in the bill. It is not totally bad but parts of that bill and parts of the amendments that Senator Cullan had adopted were so damaging to the CON process, and so damaging to the efforts of this state to try and keep down health care costs that it seems to me that we cannot support those elements of that legislation. The floor of the Legislature is not the place to debate the very complex far-ranging set of issues which are involved in certificate of need. The place in which those issues should be discussed are in the committee where we can try and make some arrangements. I am more than willing to sit down, Senator Cullan, and others interested in the issue, to try and reach a point at which we can agree on some elements of this issue and where we can also then disagree and fight those issues out on the floor. That seems to me to be the best process. That would save time for all of the members of the Legislature and not take up as much floor debate as seems to be imminent at this point. Yet that proposal and that effort to try and cooperate and