

willingness to work with both sides doesn't seem to carry very far in this effort and so it appears to me that the Legislature needs to take action in either killing the bill or not advancing the bill or returning the bill, in one form or another, trying to emphasize the fact that we have a committee structure, a hearing process that we have followed down the line with other pieces of legislation and which should be followed down the line in this case with such an important piece of legislation. So the kill motion is there for you to consider. There is a way in which we could introduce this bill and it is already ready to be introduced and I think that would be the better step to take than dealing with the legislation on General File in the manner it has now been dealt with.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose Senator Wesely's attempt to indefinitely postpone LB 378. LB 378 is a bill which is needed to comply with changes in federal regulations so far as certificate of need are concerned. We could handle it through another piece of legislation but I see no need to do that. I believe that LB 378 is not so significantly different in its current form than it was in its original form that it merits another hearing and another step through the legislative process. Were I an opponent of reasonable changes in the certificate of need law as Senator Wesely is, I would also want this bill to be killed and to have another public hearing and another bill, have two or three hundred bills ahead of this one in the political process so that it would be very easy to throw procedural blocks in front of changes in certificate of need and that could be accomplished much later in the session. As we all know, late in the legislative session a very small group of Senators can force compromises in legislation which the Legislature otherwise would not accept because of time. They can tie things up procedurally. They can stall things substantially and that is what Senator Wesely is attempting to do. I don't criticize him for that. That is a good tactic if you are an opponent of changes in certificate of need law. But this bill is not so substantially different than the original LB 378, there is no reason to introduce a new bill, no reason for another committee hearing. I will review very quickly the four major changes that I see in this certificate of need law that I think should be made, reasons that we should avoid indefinitely postponing this bill at this time. First of all as you know, the Governor has already administratively determined and decided that health systems agencies will not continue in the State of Nebraska.