

In that proposal he indicated that certificate of need had saved approximately or a little over nine million dollars.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left, Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: It is interesting to me that this nine million dollar savings which is attributed to certificate of need included \$471,000 that was saved for health care costs, that was saved because we didn't remodel the Hastings Regional Center. Now Senator Peterson can tell you why we didn't remodel the Hastings Regional Center. We didn't remodel the Hastings Regional Center because the Legislature didn't close Norfolk and so we withdrew the application for certificate of need but that is \$471,000 in savings attributed to certificate of need. Well, that is just baloney. That had nothing to do with certificate of need. It had to do with the fact that the Legislature didn't close Norfolk. Now those are the kind of claims that are being made by people in the Department of Health who like a good sized planning bureau and who make, I think, very unsubstantiated claims as to how great certificate of need has worked. I can take that document that Senator Exon received and pick it apart in much more detail because most of the claims are simply ridiculous.

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up. Is there any further discussion? If not, Senator Wesely, would you care to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, you have got a handout in front of you that I passed out with some news clippings over the past year. It starts off with some editorials from the Lincoln Star and the Lincoln Journal dealing with this issue which came up about four days ago. In both cases the papers in Lincoln have come out editorially in support of keeping a strong certificate of need bill. I have underlined some specific paragraphs that deal with their position and why they see and why I think they represent the opinion of a majority of people in this state the need to continue a strong certificate of need bill in Nebraska to keep down health care costs as much as possible. Following that you will see some different statistics dealing with the rising costs of health care. The first deals with over the last five years where total in-patient hospital expenses have gone. You will see from the graph that is on page 3 of the handout that Nebraska is now surpassing in increases the national average, that Nebraska has taken off in that respect, and that our rates are going up tremendously, 18.7%, the increase in 1981 under that article. That was out of the Omaha World Herald. Also just below that is another article dealing with health care costs