

importance of raising the threshold is simply this. It is going to allow the Department of Health to concentrate on projects that are meaningful. It is going to allow the Department of Health to make good solid presentations before the review board and the appeals panel as to why a project should or should not be constructed. I think if we continue to force the Department of Health to review minor, meaningless, rather trivial projects we are going to stop them from doing an effective job on the more significant and meaningful projects. I would also like to indicate that Senator Marsh and I have an amendment pending as soon as we are finished with Senator Wesely's amendment to lower the threshold for capital construction from \$600,000 index to \$500,000 index. It is debatable what the threshold should be but I think that part of the problem with the certificate of need process to this point in time is that the department has had to review too many cases and they have not been able to adequately prepare on those cases, and I believe that this amendment will make a much more effective certificate of need process. I urge you to defeat Senator Wesely's motion.

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

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is a more simple amendment but a very significant amendment as well as some of the other ones we have talked about. And Senator Cullan says that we don't want to go with these minor, meaningless projects that they have had to deal with and go with the big stuff and concentrate on those. Well, I don't find spending \$400,000 or \$500,000 minor or meaningless. I think that is a lot of money that ought to be reviewed, and four or five hundred thousand dollars can cost the state a lot of money in increased rates in the hospitals and nursing homes and increased taxes and increased insurance premiums that we all have to pay. Half a million dollars is no small amount of money and that is the amount of money that if you proposed a project would now be exempted under the proposal in this bill. I think that it is very wrong to increase to \$600,000 the minimum threshold. I think that is far too great an increase. I urge your support for this amendment to bring it down to a more reasonable level of \$300,000.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the Wesely amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting no.