

adopt the amendments, Senator Cullan, that you have proposed, you may free the process a bit but the cost of hospital care is going to escalate until you do something about the reimbursement procedure.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan, do you wish to close? Pardon me, Senator Newell is on. Oh, you have got an amendment to the amendment. All right, go ahead. Senator Newell, we have an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hoagland would move to amend the Cullan and Marsh amendment by striking "five" and insert "three-fifty".

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, it seems to me that since we are bartering now on the floor of the Legislature from one figure to the next, we might as well use a figure that leans more towards the people out there that have to pay for health care services rather than the providers. It seems to me that Senator Cullan by agreeing now that \$500,000 is just as good as \$600,000 is telling us that these figures are essentially arbitrary, that there has been no research done or no computations done that say we have to have \$600,000 because if there had been such research or such computations, I am sure that he wouldn't so readily agree to \$500,000. So for just throwing figures around that we don't really know very much about, why don't we operate with a presumption that we will have a lower figure because the lower the figure the better it is going to be for the people that have to pay for health care services. Now I know this body has already indicated an interest in raising it higher than a \$100,000 which is current law and in indexing it because the amendments that have not been sent back for a public hearing like a lot of us feel they should have been do provide for indexing. But if we are just throwing figures around, Senator Cullan, let me ask you this. Can you give us any reason, any really concrete reason based on evidence and statistics why it should be \$500,000 instead of \$350,000?

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Marsh, did you want to talk on the amendment to the amendment? Senator Cullan, did you want to answer a question of Senator Hoagland?

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have already indicated as Senator Hoagland knows that it could be any level. I think if it is too low, it will force the Department of Health to review a lot of projects.