

of this state because if they knew that they're not being insulated, that they're not being unaffected by this issue, they would be outraged by this issue, by this manner in which it has been handled in this Legislature, by bypassing the public and that is why we needed a public hearing on this bill and that is why the public is now coming down and writing letters at this point because they don't understand the full complexity of this issue. Without a public hearing they're really not going to be able to understand the full complexity of this issue as most of the members of this body are finding out from the issues we discussed yesterday. There are many different factors involved with the question of health care costs and I have tried to outline those yesterday in those five amendments and I think you've starting to come around to understand that there are many things that we need to look at with this bill. But without a public hearing, without the full discussion of this issue so the public can understand what is going on, you're not going to be getting those letters pouring in as you are on some other issues. The fact of the matter is the quicker this bill goes through....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR WESELY: ...the less chance for the public to understand what is going on to react and that is what the lobby out there is trying to do to you. They are trying to push this bill through as quickly as possible, trying to shove it right through, get it passed before the public knows what we did to them but I think that is the wrong approach. I think we ought to slow this bill down and we ought to give the public an understanding of the issue and a fuller debate of the matters at hand because I think if the public understands the issue they're are going to be on the side of that minority that we've been reading about, that small bank of courageous and high-integrity senators are trying to stop this effort and I think you're going to see that minority become a majority if we can take some more time with this bill because the public is on our side and I think the businesses I've talked to in Omaha, some of the major employers understand the issues and they're going to come out on our side and insurance companies that have sat this issue out, that have not gotten involved, who understand the implications, have sat the bill out so that at some point they're going to have to get some pressure and get involved and when we start getting those efforts on our side then we're going to see some of this minority turn into a majority and I think we can stop the bill.

PRESIDENT: Time is up. The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.