

clear from just any example when you talk to somebody, they know what is happening with health care costs. They don't need these figures before them to tell you that health care costs are outrageous and something has to be done about them. But the public does not know what we ought to do because it is a very complex issue. They know that something needs to be done but they leave it to us as their representatives in this Legislature to try and do the best job we can to come to grips with the problem that they think needs to be addressed. So what is this Legislature's solution to the problem this session this year? To this point it is to weaken the one effort we have enacted in this state to try and keep health care costs down rather than strengthening, rather than looking at alternatives, rather than looking at the breadth of issues that affect the health care costs of this state. We are trying to concentrate on one area and weaken our effort in that area to keep health care costs down which seems to run counter to what the public feels about this problem. Now I know that there is a lot of lobbying pressure, a lot of lobbying pressure all feeling from your hospital administrators in your home towns, from the doctors and the nursing homes. They are all very concerned about this legislation and have supported its efforts in the past but I think that they also have to recognize the fact that health care costs are out of sight and something needs to be done about it. I think that there are a lot of other steps we can take than try to weaken Certificate of Need at this point. I guess the point I am making is to try and refresh your memories as to the process we have gone through. The bill hasn't been up for about a month. We have tried to deal with some amendments to the bill and come to some conclusions and we haven't been able to do that. There is not a whole lot of, at this point, grounds for compromise but I think there ought to be. So we are at a stalemate once again, here with 26 days left in the session, many amendments facing this bill, much discussion left in store for this issue, and I believe that it is important to consider the options that we have. Killing the bill is one of them. Perhaps diminishing its impact on Certificate of Need is another. But the amendments we have tried to put on this bill, the discussion we have had on the floor to try and strengthen the bill so that it doesn't hurt irreparably our Certificate of Need process have all failed. So I am not sure how serious and viable an option that is but, nevertheless, my feeling is that we should not take the time of the Legislature in debating the bill on the floor with no public hearing and that is the point I am trying to make with this motion, Mr. Speaker.