

March 4, 1982

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that are not very interested in discussing the issue in any great detail. It is very disappointing to me as someone who is very concerned with health care costs and I think as each and every one of you know there are many people across this state concerned with health care costs that we aren't willing to seriously address the issue. We are willing to basically just do the bidding of those who are concerned with this legislation in supporting it. And although the lobbyists have won on this particular day I am predicting that at a point in the very near future the lobbyists are not going to win on this health care issue and all of us that are concerned with the cost factor and are concerned about doing something are eventually going to wake up the public and get them involved and try and get some efforts to try and change some of this. Before you is a bill with a forty-five page amendment on it on Select File, an amendment without a public hearing, benefit of a public hearing but we are able to see that with the passage of that amendment that the majority is not very interested in involving the public and being very concerned about the public's interest in health care costs. There are many problems with this bill. As you can see there are at least a half dozen amendments to this bill that have all been individually withdrawn. Each of those is a serious effort to deal with a serious problem with the legislation but this Legislature does not seem to be very serious about considering those problems and so it becomes very difficult to raise those issues on this floor in any positive fashion if people aren't willing to listen to the problems. The minds are made up, the votes are cast evidently and it is full steam ahead at this point. I think that it is clear though that many of us who are concerned with health care costs are going to continue to work on ways in which to improve this bill and you haven't seen the last of us. On Final Reading you will have some amendments that I think you should seriously consider. I don't think you should take for granted the situation right now. I think that in looking over the bill if you will look over the problem you would have to agree that there are concerns that have not yet been addressed that need to be in that bill. I think the disappointment I feel is shared by many of the general public across the state. I've gotten many letters and calls from people encouraging me in my efforts to deal with this bill and the health care problem. They are concerned with health care costs. The public in this state is very tired of the high cost of health care and wants to see something done. The problem is this. They don't know much about what certificate of need is. They don't know very much about the complexity of the problem. All they know is they are looking for this Legislature to provide some leadership. Some members have attempted to provide that leadership in addressing this issue and some of those amendments that were attempting to show that leadership

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