

can use your own judgment. I am convinced that the level of funding that is indicated on the A bill is, in fact, what would be required if you are going to have any kind of effective program at all. If you want no program I guess you don't need to give any funds but I would hope that is not the choice of the Legislature. So I would support Senator Wesely's motion on the A bill because I think in all candor that the level of funding that is proposed then more nearly reflects what the cost is, in fact, going to be.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I will quickly say that I will endorse the Wesely amendment but I think that this is an opportunity that I can't afford to pass up to talk about why we need the A bill in the first place. We need the A bill primarily and solely because we are making a major change in the way we deal with certificate of need. We are setting up an adversary board, an adversary relationship between the Department and the hospitals which will go before a board very similar to the Appeals Board that we presently have and this process will mean that in this adversarial relationship there will be needed additional monies. Now frankly Senator Cullan has been uncompromising in this regard and this shows his sincerity for trying to gut and make totally ineffective the whole issue of certificate of need. One time Senator Cullan argued about the Mickey Mouse. The Mickey Mouse he has taken out and in its replacement he has created some new Mickey Mouse and that is this adversarial new relationship between the Department and the various agencies to be thought out in a legal sort of format when it comes to certificate of need. So I would encourage this Legislature to adopt the Wesely amendment. If you are serious about this major mistake in LB 378 then, in fact, we need the additional money and if the bill does not advance or the money is not advanced, not added to and the bill does not advance, that will give us all the more reason to (a) either encourage the Governor to veto the bill if it should pass or, (b) change that and keep the Department, the relationship on how the Department processes certificate of need in its present format.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, I move the previous question.

SENATOR LAMB: That will not be necessary. Senator Wesely is now ready to close.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the