

Health Department making the decision and so I think that is really where we are at with LB 378, that is really what we are trying to accomplish with this proposed process and I think we all ought to realize that. This system would make it easier to receive a certificate of need approval. So for these different reasons I think we ought to adopt this change and for one concluding reason that I think is important to many of you is the question of who should run our state government and who should have control over decisions in this area and it seems clear that when we changed last year the system under which the Health Department functioned and made it a code agency rather than an independent agency, there was all this talk about accountability and making the Governor responsible in trying to change the situation over there. I oppose that because I thought independence was important but, nevertheless, the majority in this body said the Governor should have the oversight of that agency. Now with the passage of LB 378 we are taking away the authority of the department now placed under the Governor, giving it to this review committee, a new committee essentially in terms of its functions although the committee did exist before it really didn't do anything. And it seems clear in my mind that this is counter to what we have been talking about. There has been other talk in government reorganization about consolidating all these independent committees and government by committees is getting out of hand in Nebraska and here we are creating a new committee essentially with all kinds of authority in determining certificate of need project approval and it seems counter to the philosophy of most of the members of this body although there has been support for the concept in the past when we have considered this amendment before. I am appealing to you to talk about following your own philosophy in saying the Health Department has the authority, citizens have input on the local level, not the state level and let's make decisions as streamlined a fashion as possible. That is really what this amendment is attempting to do. I think it is curious to note that a memorandum was sent out in August of 1980, about a year after certificate of need was first passed, calling for the elimination of this very committee that we are talking about giving expanded powers to. This memorandum, again it's about a year and a half old,....

PRESIDENT: Half a minute, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: ...said that the advisory committee was really not providing any function in the certificate of need process and ought to be eliminated and yet today we're talking about rather than eliminating this committee, giving it the authority the Department had in the past and try to set it up as a decision making authority. So for efforts