

in court. This procedure I think is totally unfair. I think that the key to certificate of need is in changing the decision making process to make the process more effective. Senator Wesely, in a news release that was issued throughout the state, I believe over the weekend, talked about an \$11 million savings, I believe, by certificate of need and before he has mentioned \$10 million. Well I ask each of you to take a careful look at what has happened recently here in Lincoln in the Bryan case. In the Bryan case, and I think this is important. I'd ask you to focus on this for a second. In the Bryan case the delay inherent in the certificate of need process, and I think the arbitrary decision made by the Department of Health which was unanimously reversed by the consumer dominated appeals panel cost consumers in the State of Nebraska and particularly in Lancaster County \$33.5 million. It cost them \$2 million in increased construction cost and \$31 million in increased interest because they had to get an interest rate over a thirty year period that they are borrowing the money which was 3% higher than if the certificate of need application would have been approved or handled earlier and the appeal would not have been necessary. So the current process, the process Senator Wesely wants us to keep is one that would have cost us \$33.5, has already cost us...

PRESIDENT: Half a minute, Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: ...\$33.5 million. We've tried certificate of need for a while and I think it's clear when you look at the Bryan case how costly and how catastrophic it has been to the health care consumers in the State of Nebraska and it is time for us to make some changes. Now the change is in changing the decision maker from the Department of Health, which evidently can't even justify their decisions to the appeals panel, to an impartial body of consumers. That, I think, makes sense. It will make the Department of Health work harder. It will make them justify their positions. Obviously not one member of the consumer dominated appeals panel supported the Department of Health in their decision in the Bryan case and that I think is important. It shows that the Department of Health has not functioned well in this regard and it justifies clear...a change.

PRESIDENT: Time, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I call the question.

PRESIDENT: Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed