

April 13, 1982

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that persons who need care will get care in decent, dignified surroundings. I think that we have provided a mechanism whereby...

PRESIDENT: Half a minute, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...we have allowed certain conditions to exist and I think that Senator Higgins is making an honest attempt to correct those problems. I do not want to speak about the lobbies because all groups lobby but I do not think we should just close our eyes to a situation which Senator Higgins has pointed out to us and, therefore, I support her amendment and I ask you to do so also.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Everybody is supposed to be here. Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 10 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. Debate ceases. Senator Higgins, you may close.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, am I closing now just on bringing the bill back or on the amendment?

PRESIDENT: You are closing on the motion to return, yes, Senator. That is correct.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I do want to clarify one thing. Senator DeCamp asked me if all the amendments that were offered in committee were in this amendment and I said yes and at the time I'd forgotten that Senator Cullan had offered an amendment to the bill in committee that would have included nursing homes connected with hospitals and I did not include that in my amendments for this reason, because it is specifically addressing nursing homes which were part of already licensed in-patient hospitals. It is my understanding that some of these amendments as adopted or rather Senator Cullan's, might result in some unnecessary duplication of existing regulations or result in an unwanted change in Medicare reimbursement rates. So we left the nursing homes connected to hospitals out of it because it primarily would have raised the cost and also because nursing homes connected to hospitals are already regulated under the Hospital Act rather than by the Health Department. Senator Beutler said that if you vote