

I rise in opposition to the Cullan motion. I believe that most of you will recall that on Select File I allowed the bill to move without any problem because I told Senator Cullan that I did not wish to delay the bill. I do not believe the amendments that have been proposed to the bill are frivolous amendments. There are a number of amendments up there which I am sure the introducers are serious about. I also have an amendment which I would like to offer to the bill. It is a sincere amendment and I believe my interest in health care and the proper type of solutions to some of the cost containment problems we have been talking about is just as deep and sincere as is Senator Cullan's. I think the issue is of prime concern to all of us. We talked a lot about the cost of various governmental services. I would suggest that a service which is as expensive as the providing of health care which a vast sum of tax dollars are poured into year after year after year deserves to be discussed in its entirety. I recognize that Senator Cullan and the Public Health Committee have done a lot work on this. It represents a concept which I do not entirely disagree with. I think we have to recognize as we see the mushrooming in the construction industry, in the new construction of health care facilities across the state that the present law is not as effective as we would like to have it. I think eventually we're going to find some radical changes in health care containment legislation. I think we ought to take a look at it. I think it is wrong to vote on this bill at this time. There are many bills that need to be discussed in the waning days of this Legislature and I certainly am willing to take my chances with some of the bills that I have on the board. If we do not get to them, we do not get to them but that does not justify treating anything superficially and I would hope that you would vote against the Cullan amendment. I want to remind you once again that the bill could have been held up as have other bills been held up which were not nearly as important as this bill. There are a number of bills and I can cite you several that came from the Ag Committee that really have no consequence connected to this Legislature in the same degree as this bill but for a variety of reasons a number of amendments were attached to the bills and the bills are still perhaps not going to become law this session. Now we are going to send out a signal, a signal with which I disagree to the providers of health care and I would suggest to you that the people who pay the cost of health care are going to send a signal back to us that they are unhappy and that they expect better of us and I think that we have a right, we have a responsibility to debate these bills and to debate them in their entirety. Senator Cullan has disagreed with some of the provisions that I have provided in my amend-