

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I will not be supporting the kill motion, however, I do have some concerns in regard to rural health that I am not sure this bill addresses. And one of my concerns is the fact that many of the hospitals have financial problems out in the state and some of the people involved that assist them indicate that part of the problem is excessive regulation by the state. I am wondering if this will provide some relief to those hospitals or will it, on the other hand, provide what might be considered some competition which would make it more difficult for those hospitals to stay in business? Those things are not clear to me at this point and certainly I'm not going to vote to kill this bill at this point but I think there are some legitimate concerns in regard to the bill that need to be answered sometime before it passes on Final Reading.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks, then Senator Elmer.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President and members of the body, this bill, I believe, was brought to you or to us by people with very honorable intentions. There is nobody that would intentionally, I believe, include language that would call for abortion counseling or this type of thing. I know this has been what people are talking about. I know I wouldn't put up with it. I know Senator Lynch wouldn't put up with it. There are some problems that I have with the bill. Some of the language is a little bit fuzzy and I really think that before we offer to kill this bill, which would really be a boon, I think, to rural Nebraska, provided it's worded right and provided that the...certain amendments are made, before we do that I would like to see us at least have the chance to make those amendments and make the changes that would make this bill more acceptable to all of us. So I would not support the kill motion and I would like to, at this time, give the rest of my time to Senator Wesely who has some suggestions about possible amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, you have almost four minutes.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. In the discussion, I...you know, sometimes we take a lot of time discussing a bill and you think, geez, you know, why did we do that? And, of course, those of us that introduced the bill think it's perfect and feel comfortable with it and those of you who are asking questions are very concerned and so what happens is you have to