

that the first change that we have in there would lower the capital expenditure that triggers certificate of need. This would lower the certificate of need review process from 1.5 million to 1.2 million. I think you will see that Senator Wesely has a number of amendments filed to the bill and a number of them do that exact same thing, lower that from 1.5 to 1.2 million. The second amendment was as the bill was originally written, the capital expenditure that triggers review for a substantially changed or new service in the bill was that 1.5 million. I am asking that we lower that down to \$900,000. The third change is that we would add the inflation index to the cost of major medical equipment that triggers CON. This would put into a place a process whereby as the cost of...as the inflation goes up, there would be an automatic raising of these thresholds to meet this inflation factor. The fourth is a change of the procedures. This is purely a technical kind of amendment dealing with the first filer in a CON project, so this is purely a technical kind of change. The next amendment, again, is technical. It allows the Department of Health on its own action to hold a public meeting concerning a CON application. Currently, only the interested parties can ask for such public meeting. This would allow the department to ask for this public meeting. The next change is again technical in nature and deals with some time frames in the holding of the public meetings by the Department of Health in the certificate of need process. I think that is all of the changes that are made. I think I have properly explained them. I don't know whether Senator Wesely is going to address them. If I have not properly explained them, I will attempt to answer any questions that anyone might have on these amendments to the committee amendments. With that, I would just urge the body to adopt this amendment to the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, please.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendments to the committee amendments have been negotiated and the vast majority of the health care providers of all types in the state have negotiated and worked on these and have come to an agreement that this will best serve the public of the state, and with the adoption of the amendments to the committee amendments, the committee amendments to the bill, we will have a very workable method whereby we can contain health costs as far as capital expenditures are concerned and at the same time we will be able to let some competitive...competitive work be done around the