

state to lower the health care costs of the citizens of this state. The certificate of need as it's working now as will be shown later in the debate on the floor is doing nothing but increase health care costs to the people of the state. And I would urge the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments and the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, followed by Senators Schellpeper and Schmit.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I would rise in support of the amendments. They do make technical changes that are needed and identified by the Health Department. I have reviewed those. There is one additional technical change that I will be offering in a later amendment that isn't included, but otherwise it is fine in terms of the technical amendments. The reduction from 1.5 to 1.2 is an agreed to compromise, a reasonable one, and I would support that. The \$900,000 figure on the new services is an attempt at compromise on the part of the providers. Of course, it is not quite what some people would like to see, including myself. I have an amendment to go clear down to \$50,000. That may be perhaps too low, but at least it is a good faith attempt on the part of the providers to compromise and so I would support the reduction down to 900,000. I would argue a bit, I know we'll get into this more later, but Senator Elmer talked about these amendments and how the providers have all sat down and reached a compromise on this for the good of the public. Well, I think in this case perhaps that's the case, but just because the providers have sat down and agreed to something doesn't necessarily mean that the public is well served by those agreements and compromises and I think we'll get into that later. But I did want to challenge that premise and position, but in this case I do agree that these are good amendments and I would support them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I would also rise to support 429. I think at the present time the CON in the State of Nebraska is probably obsolete. We need... I don't want to do away with it, but we need to update it and I think there has been some compromises worked out here with the hospitals and nursing homes and the medical people and I think that we need to support that. I think Senator Wesely is probably right, it hasn't taken everybody, but I think it has