

qualities in good perspective. From a rural perspective they have been nothing but additional costs. These lists should be reviewed even if there is no cost involved, seems completely unreasonable. CON hasn't held down the cost care as Senator Wesely would allege. In his own handout he claims that health care costs are going up, but it says the fastest growing component of health care expenditures in 1988 was professional services. According to the annual report, reading directly from Senator Wesely's handout, the cost of physician services rose 12.8 percent while the cost of services provided by home health, optometrists, nurses, therapists and these other type of people went up almost 16 percent. So you can see this health care component is not something that is covered by certificate of need or these lists, it is covered by the increase in the professional charges. I handed you out an example of what certificate of need is costing our rural hospitals. My hospital in McCook, Nebraska wished to spend less than seven or \$800 to put in some electrical outlets for a portable CT scanner. Because they were offering a new service that they had not offered before, the Health Department was requiring them to go through a certificate of need review. The certificate of need review costs five to \$15,000 for an accountant's time and various professionals to help them put their...to put their materials together, and the new service cost the hospital nothing but electrical outlets. Currently, if you'll look at our handout, if a doctor orders a diagnostic CAT scan of a patient, he has to provide ambulance...the hospital has to provide ambulance service to Kearney, pay for the CAT scan in Kearney, pay for the ambulance trip home, \$308 for the ambulance, 370 to \$80 for the CAT scan. If that unit were available in McCook, the cost of the CAT scan would be 270 to 85 to \$295 with no ambulance cost. It's a clear demonstration of why certificate of need costs us more, and I'd ask you to oppose this amendment to Wesely's amendment, amendment to the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Baack, please, followed by Senator Schellpeper and Wesely.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I think we need to, you know, we need to focus on exactly what this amendment is and I'm going to talk a little bit more about the totality of the amendment we're going to be talking about, but this amendment is specifically that in the amendment that Senator Wesely first introduced, said that the capital expenditures for