

impact but which will rise dramatically in the future. And I don't need to go through the examples. I will later if time permits, but the point is it is these types of new surgeries and new equipment where we can try and draw the line on both the cost and quality measure that we've got to recognize that one of the reasons we have such high health care costs is that we have these new exotic surgeries and equipment coming into our country and people are quick to try and pick up on them. They rush forward and grab them at the point at which they are employed and that is a very costly thing to do, it is very expensive. Sometimes the cost will go down over a period of time, CAT scanner is one example of that and for Senator Elmer's edification, this amendment, he mentioned a CAT scanner story, this amendment that I'm offering would put CAT scanners on the nonsubstantive reviews so the problem he had would not be a problem under this amendment. But the concept is this, that new services that are costly and difficult to do need to be reviewed by the state before allowing them to go forward. Under the bill in current shape you basically open the door and allow people in any new service and some of these new equipments that fall below the thresholds that are so much higher now, they will just be free to run forward and move into these areas and spend what money they wish and do whatever they wish within...without any regard for its impacts on the state in both cost and quality. To me, I think you're opening the door far too much. Running through what we're trying to do here, the neonatal care units, both number II and number III, would be reviewed as a new service. These are very expensive, not particularly in terms of new cost, but can be very expensive services that are very important as well and having a review there to make sure that people that move into the neonatal care level II and III, which are higher levels, II is higher than I and III higher than II, have a good quality and good access and can do the job that we want to take care of our babies in need of this type of service. So neonatal care would be reviewed under this proposal, trying to recognize the need to provide for quality in that area.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: Open-heart surgery is one of the key argument points for us. Senator Labeledz mentioned the fight that we've had over Bergan Mercy. We would add back open-heart surgery, cardiac catheterization, angioplasty into the review process and we can get into that in great detail but this list would include that because it is very important that we understand if you get