SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I think that, you know, Senator Wesely has said that the lobby is in control here. I think Senator Wesely knows me better than to say that the lobby has controlled me. I think I've got a record of that not happening in here. I would have not had an interest in this bill at all had it not been brought to me by the hospital in Sidney. They are the ones that came to me and said, you know, we're having some real problems here and we think that these are unreasonable, some of these regulations are simply unreasonable. I have talked to a number of other rural hospitals in my district that feel exactly the same way and what we have is what I talked about before. We have the haves versus the "have nots" here and we have...and so we're not going to allow the "have nots" to have new services, making those services more competitive, we're going to let just the haves have them and not have to be competitive any more. That is what we do if we start putting these kinds of lists in there. I think if you will look at the committee statement in your bill books you will find that there was not testimony against the bill and you'll find that officially the Department of Health was neutral on the bill. I don't know, maybe they have taken lobbying lessons and neutrality lessons from the Board of Regents and none of us are going to know what neutral means, but as far as I can tell, when I read neutral that means they don't have a whole lot of objections to the bill. Maybe in the background they are doing some other things which has happened with the Board of Regents, but I assume when I see neutral that they are out of this and they are willing to live with what we do in this bill. So I would speak in opposition to this amendment. I think it is just going to pit the haves against the "have nots" and I don't think that that is the thing that we need to do in legislation. I think we have set some reasonable limits there. We have set reasonable dollar limits that say if those numbers go...if those costs go beyond those limits, then it will be reviewed. Until they go past those, there will be no review and I think those limits are very, very reasonable, so with that, I would urge you to reject the Wesely amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Lynch.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the viewpoint that has been expressed and I appreciate it. I continue to feel though it isn't a question of haves versus