

increased expenditures and lowered quality and I think that is not the direction we want to take with health care in Nebraska.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Lynch. The question has been called. Five hands? Yes, I do. Shall debate cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Wesely, for closing.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I've tried to go through a little bit of the philosophy here. I know most people have made up their mind before they ever came to the floor to hear the debate on this issue what they're going to do, and I can see that. But, again, for the record, my thought is clearly that we open up the door and will allow without this amendment the chance for not only Bergan Mercy to come in and have the open-heart surgery that they want, but just about any hospital in the state could come in and move into open-heart surgery. Do you want that? Do you want everybody able to do that? Do they have the skills and quality assurances that you'd want to see happen to have that across the state? I think it's a wonderful thing to try and provide these services and opportunities to people, but there has also got to be a realization that the consumer out there, the public out there is unable to determine who is good and who isn't good, who is expensive and who isn't expensive at these things and without the data and information, they've got to count on us to make sure that people out there are doing the job and doing it well. And I know there is cases and there have been cases of people that haven't had the experience and move into these areas and they don't do a good job, lives are lost, lives are harmed and you're just opening up the door to allow more people to get into very technical, difficult areas, transplants, open-heart surgery, neonatal care, all difficult and very expensive and very important operations and services. And we ought to be able to have some control and oversight to make sure that people move into these new areas are going to do a good job and that they don't diminish the quality and the cost involved with other operations now going on, other hospitals and what they are doing and by not having the review you open up the door and don't allow that weighing of the situation. Now if somebody wants to move in these areas and feels it's important for their hospital or their area of the state, they can make application and the