

certificate of need process will review that application. They will determine balancing out the different choices that they have, what is in the best interest of the state, of everybody in the state, not just of the hospital applying or that particular community, but balancing it all out, what is the best solution for everybody in Nebraska. In addition you have all the equipment that we're talking about here and if you have everybody with the same equipment, the ability to move in with this new equipment, again, you have a cost factor. They put the capital expenditure in and they turn around and they don't have enough people to utilize that equipment and the costs are going to go up not only for the new equipment, but for the old equipment. The hospitals that have the equipment then have less people utilizing it. They have to raise costs and, again, the quality question comes into play. The fewer people using the equipment or using the service, the less quality you're going to have. Again, it's important and it has been shown through study after study that in health care you've got to have people that are experts and good at things and you'll find that quality goes up and cost goes down. One of the things, for instance, in health care you'll find is people going up to Mayo Clinic in certain fields of expertise. They have the skills, they have the people, they have the equipment and people will travel from Nebraska up there to get the kind of quality care that they want. I envision in Nebraska that in some of these nonemergency health care services you would have that kind of quality concentration in the state where certain hospitals have the equipment and the people skilled in utilizing that equipment and performing that surgery so that people can come in there and know that they are going to get the best care possible at the lowest cost possible and that's the kind of vision that I have for health care in this state, not that everybody has everything, you'll have nothing as a result of that. But the concept of having certain hospitals able to do certain things and doing them well and doing them inexpensively is what we have to try and do in health care. Otherwise we continue down the road we're on right now with hospital and health care costs skyrocketing, insurance premiums going up out of sight and the quality being brought into question as a result of the problems that result from it. It makes no sense for me to proceed down the road in that direction. It makes more sense, in my view, to change the CON process as has been suggested...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.