

up to some of the threshold increases and going beyond that I think is being a bit greedy, that the individuals behind this in terms of some of the providers are in here asking for 12 million more dollars for indigent care, asking for 20 million more dollars for Medicaid and \$33 million the following year. They are asking for 7 million more dollars for health insurance cost, they are asking for more, more, more to pay for the increase in health care costs. What have they come back here with to provide for us some idea how to contain these costs? How do we pay for these costs? How do we do something about this skyrocketing problem? And there have been no ideas laid on the table, no concept other than weakening the certificate of need law which is obviously, in my estimation, not helping contain costs, but most likely to lead to further cost increases over a period of time. So where are we right now? We're at an attempt to be reasonable with the providers, improve the system to try and meet some of their concerns, but they want more, far more than I think they need to have and far more than is reasonable and I care a great deal about this. I've worked on this issue for a long time, I understand it very well and am willing to fight a great deal about it. At the same time I know many of you are not as familiar with the issue and probably care very little about it, but I think as we discuss this and as you see some of the information I have, hopefully you'll think about it some more, consider some of the options some more and let us see if we cannot reach a better compromise than is being proposed under this bill. We're really not that far apart. With many of the changes, many of the process changes, some of the threshold changes, I'm not fighting, I'm not arguing, but I think again that we've gone, with that last amendment being rejected, clearly farther than we need to to meet the legitimate needs of the providers of the state and to come back with a concept of trying to contain the costs that we need to contain in the State of Nebraska. It is obviously getting out of hand and I see nothing being laid on the table to counter this proposal with a better idea on how we do something about that problem. Now with that, I'd move to withdraw this amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator, the next amendment I have is offered by yourself. It is AM1245.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.