

without it, that is the indigent care problem that we have. We've got to come to grips with this situation. CON is but one part of that solution. We give up too much under this bill. We give away too much in terms of our oversight and I think we'll pay the price in the long run and that price is paid by all of us individually as insurance premium payers and as taxpayers because one way or the other we all get stuck with the bill, but I feel very strongly that we aren't doing enough, that we need to do more and these next amendments are an attempt to try and bring more information to the forefront so we can get a handle on this and do something about the problem.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Wesely amendment. Senator Labedz. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: There has been no discussion on this particular amendment. I will not recognize. Thank you. Senator Schellpeper, would you care to discuss the amendment?

SENATOR SCHELLEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I would also be in opposition to this although there has been no other opposition, but I would still be in opposition to it. I think that we're getting to a point here now where we're trying to discuss the same thing over and over again. I think we need to get to the main issue that Senator Wesely is really trying to get at and maybe take that amendment, but all these other amendments that we're having I think we're just wasting time of this body. So I would hope that Senator Wesely would get to his main amendment and we could go on with that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Elmer, on the amendment, followed by Senators Schmit, Moore and Baack.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Wesely has continually said that passage of this bill is going to raise health costs. That is absolutely false. CON itself has done nothing but raise health costs. The Federal Trade Commission report that our federal government put out demonstrates that fact. Government bureaucracies that require increasing paperwork, more and more reports do nothing but increase costs. This particular amendment would require hospitals, nursing homes and various care facilities around the state to fill out additional reports, hire more people to do it and increase costs