

unnecessarily. Senator Wesely says that quality is going to decline. CON has nothing to do with quality. The quality is borne by these services, by the physicians. Reputation and medicine is built on quality. When you're sick you want the best. When your physician refers you to another physician he thinks he is the best. Physicians practice as a group in hospitals and oversee each other's work and they are all overseen by the federal and state government and the Department of Health. Medical staffs establish standards of practice that are ongoing and become national standards of practice. Physicians are accountable to the community hospitals where they work and to their association and to the insurance companies who pay their bills and to the federal government who monitors the cost of their care. And if this isn't comforting at all in the way of quality, we can't do it with CON. CON just looks at a facility before it even operates. It has no idea what the quality is after it starts. The ongoing licensing reviews that the Department of Health does assures that quality, not the CON. I would ask you to reject this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair is pleased to take a moment to suggest that Senator Withem has some guests in our north balcony. We have 50 fourth graders from G. Stanley Hall School in LaVista, Nebraska, with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and take a bow. Thank you. We're glad you could take the time to visit. Thank you. Senator Schmit, further discussion. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, oh, it's not too often I agree with Senator Wesely and I probably don't agree with him today, but you notice I voted on the last amendment because I share some of his frustration. The fact of the matter is, is what are we going to do about health care costs? The problem is, as he mentioned very clearly, in LB 187 the \$12 million bill, you've got a variety of requests and appropriations coming from the health care industry. It goes on and on and on and on, couple that with the fact, as you all know, state employees' health insurance cost went up 36 percent. What are we going to do about it? And I think oftentimes I consider ourselves kind of a board of directors and I think what Senator Wesely mentioned about the university, University of Nebraska Medical Center addition, you know us, the board of directors, us 49 people in here, University of Nebraska Med Center came and said we need this and we voted yes on that. The vote was 40-3. Korshoj, Schmit and I voted no. We don't know anything about