

hospitals. We need some independent observations to help us out in our decision-making process. But Senator Wesely has said the certificate of need board came and said, you don't need to build that hospital, correct, Senator Wesely? Now I agree with Senator Baack's bill. I think we need to raise the limitations in it and make it more reasonable, but I still think the certificate of need process is serving a purpose that it has to serve and I guess I wish sometimes we'd listen to a little more and in the case of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, I guess I wish we would have waited until some of the experts give us an opinion of what we should do. Instead we locked ourselves in to spending \$48 million, or in bonds, it's not General Fund, but it's a \$48 million expenditure that is going to be paid for by patient fees that this body approved without listening to the experts. I think the certificate of need can serve a purpose. I'm going to vote against Senator Wesely's amendment here, I don't think this is the way to do it, but I think he is raising a very valid point. We've got to turn it off somewhere, we've got to do something and just turning everybody loose is not the answer to the question, so I'll be voting against Senator Wesely's amendment and I'll eventually be voting for Senator Baack's bill but let's think about it. Let's try and do something and let's remember that the University of Nebraska Med Center. You know, it's always easy to say we need to spend money on these fancy programs but we need somebody out there that independently looks and makes sure we're spending our money wisely.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack, followed by Senator Crosby.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I rise in opposition to this amendment also. I just do want to comment that as Senator Wesely noted that the announcement came that the Medical Center had been turned down. The implication was there that if this bill in place we wouldn't have had that review of that project which is simply not true because that was a \$47 million project. That project would have been subject to review even though that 429 had been in place, so that still would have happened. We would have still had the review of that project, so that simply does not affect this. Mr. Speaker, the thing that I would like to do is I would like you to rule on the germaneness of this amendment. It seems like that this bill talks about the licensure of hospitals, not the certificate of need law. I would question the germaneness of this.