

SENATOR LYNCH: We shouldn't have to pass a law to do that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, would you care to discuss the amendment? Senator Labeledz next. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Labeledz, I haven't spoken on this all day and I'm not going to belabor the point. I just want to say this. It's easy to stand up here today and say that certificate of need hasn't worked. Senator Dan Lynch just gave an example of how it was not allowed to work. We do not know today how many dollars the people of the State of Nebraska have in their pockets because a dozen or so years ago a rather unlikely conglomerate of individuals, Chambers and Landis and Hoagland and Johnson and Wesely and Schmit and DeCamp and a few others, got together and decided we'd try something called certificate of need. Didn't work as well as we wanted it to work. We'll be the first to agree to that. Didn't do all we thought it would do. We will agree to that also. Probably today it may well have been and may be an idea whose time has come and gone, I'll concede that. I just want to say also that sometimes in this floor we all get desperate. I've been that way, in fact, I was a little bit that way yesterday. But we accuse the lobby and the lobbyists are doing things. There is nothing illegal or immoral about that. That's what they're paid for out there. We understand that. We're all grown up and we know that. Sometimes they have more influence, sometimes less. I want to make a couple of points, however, and that is this, that without someone raising the questions that have been raised here today we would just march blissfully on down the line and rubber-stamp what has happened. What are you going to do about the fact that the medical school now has been rejected by the certificate of need? Will some of the questions that were raised by the Department of Health be answered? I don't know. Will some of the questions that were raised by Clarkson and then later, I guess repudiated, will they be addressed? I don't know. Will we take a second look at any of the costs that seem to continue to press upward and onward day after day after day? I hope so. Will we add the emergency clause to this bill, strike a couple of dates, try to save the med school? Maybe so. The point I want to make is this, that unless sometimes, someone gets a handle on the cost of health care, and I'm not saying that we're doing it right or wrong today here, but we are marching step by step down the road to some kind of national health insurance and if you like that, ladies and gentlemen, try