

was first designed, stated recently they would be very interested in talking about liability, if there is any liability, which led me to believe that they have not even been approached about the liability question. All of these things leads me to believe that the case has not been fully made that \$2.8 million needs to be spent, that we could be much better off spending \$100,000 at this point to do a load test of the building and allow us to ask a number of questions, such as, is it a safe structure? You know, what is the load bearing capability of this particular building? Are there cheaper alternatives than the one that...the company that recommended...that is going to be doing the design to bring this about has recommended? And how should it be paid for? Should we be going back and talking to the original designer? That's what the amendment does. It appropriates \$100,000 as opposed to \$2.8 million to do a load test of this building as opposed to doing a complete remodel. If nothing else, this will give the Legislature an opportunity to make a clear cut policy decision as to whether this is the approach to take or not to take. With that, I would give the remainder of my opening time to Senator Hall who is co-sponsor of this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: About four minutes, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, as a co-sponsor, I, of course, rise in support of Senator Withem's amendment. The issue here is one of, do we have all the information I think necessary to make this decision? It is, to date, as Senator Withem has pointed out, been basically an incestuous relationship with regard to the university and the folks who have done the...given the opinions with regards to whether or not the building has any structural problems, serious structural problems. I think that this is a step in the right direction with regard to finding out on our own with regard to the policy decision that we are going to make here with with regard to the building, whether or not this is something that needs to be done or do we go in and appropriate 2.8 or 2.6, whatever the figure was, with regard to this rebuilding of the pharmacy college? The original cost of the building was somewhere around three and a half and when you add the 600,000 that the Med Center is going to have to pay out of their budget and is currently paying, you're nearly at that same dollar figure that the original cost of the building was. This is something that we need to do to make sure that we have, I think, a very fair and accurate opinion with regard to whether or not