

April 26, 1989

LB 429

to the fullest extent, would Senator Lindsay respond to a question?

PRESIDENT: Senator Lindsay, please.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Lindsay, would you agree to an amendment that would remove the hospitals that in Omaha currently have the ability, through the grandfather clause, to provide for open heart surgery procedures, even though they do not meet the minimum threshold that is currently out there under CON, but yet they, in many cases I think it's three, do not even come anywhere near. Would you support an amendment that would take operational procedure away from them in order to cut costs and save lives?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator, I believe that you're referring to the two that would not...

SENATOR HALL: Yes or no.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes, I wouldn't have a problem with it.

SENATOR HALL: You would support that amendment...

SENATOR LINDSAY: Sure, sure.

SENATOR HALL: ...to str...

SENATOR LINDSAY: Are you offering it?

SENATOR HALL: I will, especially if this is adopted, clearly. Thank you very much, because that will do, in essence, exactly the reverse of what this amendment would do to LB 429. It will say, look, even though this hospital has been doing everything up to the point of the open heart surgery, and they have in the case of Bergan Mercy, and you might as well cut to the quick and, Senator Lindsay, I appreciate the amendment, because that's what much of the debate has been on, it's what much of the debate, clearly all of the debate was last year when we gutted my A bill to 716 and put this procedure into statute, allowed for it to take place, got it passed, advanced it along and it was vetoed. There was not any time to override the veto because it was done within the last five days of the session. The issue here is one of do you let a hospital have the ability to function within their capabilities, or don't you? There clearly