

you. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. As a member of the Health Committee, I want to remind the body that when this bill was heard in the committee, we did not have any opposition to this bill. This has been worked out by all of the people involved and there was no opposition. The Health Department was neutral, so I think that we are just wasting time here this afternoon. The former President of the Nebraska Medical Association said that one of the main reasons that we are having some problem in the rural health area is because of this CON. There is just...they cannot...it costs so much to comply with everything that we just do not need it and it is just outdated. I think we need to put more trust into our local hospital boards. They know what is good for that area, what is good for that hospital. I don't think we need the CON. In talking to the Bergan Mercy, some of their people back here, they also do not want to be treated differently. They want to be treated straight up on the issue so they also do not like this amendment. So I would urge you to not adopt the Wesely amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator McFarland. Senator McFarland. Senator Wesely. Yours is the last light, would you care to make a closing statement?

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members, once again I am just trying to add the list, the neonatal care, the open surgery, minus the Bergan Mercy, the chronic renal dialysis, and the transplants. These are very important functions needing to continue to be reviewed, and I think at least this ought to be included in this piece of legislation, so I would ask your support for this amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the second part of Senator Wesely's divided motion. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 5 ayes, 20 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Motion fails. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Wesely. Senator, I have AM1548 in front of me.