

more to the bookwork for hospitals, and I think all that will do is increase the cost. It is bound to increase the cost because they are going to have to deal with the volumes of bookwork with adding a new form like this. So I would just ask you to reject Senator Wesely's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer. Thank you. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, as of today, I haven't supported one of Senator Wesely's amendment and I felt that the amendments that were offered up until this time really weren't good amendments, and as a result, I did not support them. But I think that this particular amendment does have a great deal of merit. The forms...the form that Senator Baack held up and showed to the body is an example of how interwoven health care costs and hospitals have become with the government. The fact is hospitals run and doctors make most of their money as a result of government subsidization, and the programs that have been established are good programs and they should continue to exist, but the fact is that the health care community is no longer out there by themselves. They aren't supported by a few, if you have the money, you pay; you get a broken arm, you go to a doctor and you pay out of your hard-earned money. Most of health care costs, unfortunately, are being paid by the government. Now the information that is being requested by Senator Wesely I feel really isn't all that much more than what is currently being requested by the federal government. That particular form is an example of the federal government being involved in the process saying, we know that you are the ones that have to provide that health care to our citizens of the country, but at the same time, we want to make sure that this money is being well spent. Now I am not sure whether Senator Baack's bill, LB 429, is going to work. I am not sure that changing the thresholds will help to reduce health care costs or will increase health care costs, but I don't see how our body can make a decision on something like that without getting all the relevant information. Maybe next year with this information, or two years from now, three years from now, after we look at the information, we will be able to say, well, maybe the threshold should be at this level, maybe we shouldn't have any thresholds. Maybe certificate of need is an outdated mode. But I will be honest, I don't really know that we have enough information to make that type of decision and the information that Senator Wesely is requesting the body to force those