

review of the new services and the new surgeries is going to be very damaging to this state. It is going to be damaging on cost and it is going to be damaging on quality. You are going to have more people getting into areas that are very technical, very difficult, and not having any review except in some cases there will be some review. That is not an absolute, but I think in many cases, you are going to open up the door in a way you don't want to open it up. We have a serious problem with health care costs, almost a 100 million more dollars will be spent in state taxes over the next two years for health care expenditures if everything that is now pending goes through. That is money that could be spent on other things, and what you are doing is taking a step backward, not a couple of steps backward as the original bill, but still a step backward from where we were, and I simply think it is a mistake and I would ask you to vote against the advancement of the bill, recognizing Senator Baack has been very reasonable in attempting to work on this but, nevertheless, the bill goes too far, weakens too much, and hurts a process that I think should be better and stronger than it is right now. So that is my comments, and I know many of you feel differently, but I hope at least you will consider that this is an important issue.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Senator Lynch.

**SENATOR LYNCH:** Mr. Chairman and members, I know it's late. Just take a second if I can. In Senator Wesely's sincere effort to develop his point of view, he did pass out a document that said, I am number two. I only feel obliged to stand up and mention since people I work for were identified in the letter. And it was a letter that was sent about 15 to 18 months ago which had nothing to do with 429. I don't fault Don for that. It was sent out by someone other...it was put together then by someone other than him. Also, it identified a proposed state health plan problem of \$2.5 million again which has nothing to do with the issue. And, just for the record, I thought I am obliged, in fact, to mention that I would hope that you would all understand, especially those involved with 429, those for and against it, those involved with the concern of health care costs at the state level and others, that the two really have very little to do with each other. I was hoping that it wouldn't have happened. Now that being said, I want to mention that 429 is something that is difficult for me to support because I do strongly, I favor a strong certificate of need. However, for those of you that might be living in a dreamland