

We're going to be sending them out of state. Finally, and I think most importantly, and I think this is the argument that should carry more weight than any and that is we're talking about lives. We're talking about mortality rates. We're talking about as the number of open-heart surgeries decreases, and all sides agree, the number of open-heart surgeries at St. Joe's will decrease and that is not the issue. The issue is, what is the effect of that and the effect of that and I think it's very clear the effect is an increase in mortalities. I think passed here out on the floor, oh, within the last week was a letter from a Dr. Bellotti, I believe, who indicated that while we agree the same surgeons will most likely be doing the open-heart surgeries, he indicates that a surgeon alone does not make an open-heart surgery successful or unsuccessful. It's a team of surgeons that does it, and as he states, a team does not transfer with the surgeon from hospital to hospital. The team consists of heart-lung machine pump technicians, circulating nurses, operating room scrub nurses, intensive care technicians and nurses, nurse anesthetists and anesthesiologists. We're talking about a good number of people who all contribute to the success of those open-heart surgeries. I suggest to you that this is not something that we want to tinker around with to make one hospital or another a full-service hospital or whatever the arguments may be. We are dealing with a very serious issue, more serious than the \$36 million we just talked about for two or three hours, more serious than the sales tax exemption we spent a couple hours on this afternoon. We're talking about people's lives and I think it's something that we have to take very seriously here in making our decisions. I think to turn it around and look at the issue...the arguments in favor of it, I think there's a couple of them. One is Bergan Mercy would be a full-service hospital and people wouldn't have to transfer. I don't think there has been any showing that it is going to cause a decrease in mortality by, because people don't have to transfer, and I think the opposite of that actually has been shown. More importantly, I think, or the second argument I should say, is that it's just not fair because Archbishop Bergan Mercy Hospital was not grandfathered into the open-heart surgery the way the other hospitals were, and that's true. When Bergan Mercy...Bergan Mercy was not in at the time and they couldn't start in...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...without a CON. So I think that's clearly