

quiet sense and a secret sense right now. But if we aren't willing to take that step or consider that step, and I think we ought not to at this point, we should take the step of allowing the individual to choose for themselves how they ration their own health care. We should recognize that the cost of health care has been identified as very high toward the end of life, that that is where a lot of the cost has gone up, and if we can't even allow an individual to choose for themselves how to make a decision, obviously, the broader concept that Oregon is pursuing is far beyond us. But it makes sense to me to allow individuals to have their options open to them and to choose for themselves what action is taken to prolong their lives. And in so doing, I think we allow them the dignity to take...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR WESELY: ...they please, and also there is an impact on the cost of care and other impacts as well, but this broader issue of health care is one that we have to keep in mind as we debate this issue.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I want to respond briefly to Senator Lindsay. Senator Lindsay has raised a couple of points which must be given weight by the members of the body that are a couple of the key arguments as you consider some of these matters, and the two points that he made, one was that there would be perhaps more litigation rather than less, if you had living wills, and the second point was that you can better keep up with medical technology if you use a durable power of attorney versus a living will. Briefly just touching on the more litigation versus less litigation, of course, that is always the subject of some speculation until you actually have a system in place and see how it works, but I guess I would suggest to you the property law analogy, we do have wills to deal with our property law, and we have that system, and we have always had that system, and we have that system even though it results in litigation because overall we know that chaos is avoided and order is promoted, and overall there is less litigation because we have wills for property, for our property. And I suspect that in the long term, that would also turn out to be true for this kind of will that we are calling the living will. Secondly, with regard to keeping up with medical technology, I think you have to take a step back