

April 7, 1992

LB 1019

usually smaller hospitals and certificate of need does apply. I think it's a \$1.2 million threshold for a building construction, also a 750,000 threshold for new service, and so for significant investments there will be the CON review. I have great concern about hospital building and expansion, but in this case it appears to be something I can live with, and with the checks and balances in place I think we can get by. So I'm going to go ahead and support the amendment, but perhaps hopefully would get a chance to address the broader issues that Senator Lynch and Senator Hall have already raised.

SENATOR LYNCH: Thanks.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. Briefly, I agree with Senator Lynch also. And I also agree that there is the difference, and I'm not exactly sure what the CON recognizes in those differences. The difference between large hospitals competing for business, expanding sometimes needlessly within the city, and our ability to attract and maintain and build facilities. There's a difference there and I hope the CON reviews would take care of that. Also, in a county facility I'm sure there's the other review, the other scrutiny given to the process by the voters. I am very concerned about the costs of health care, and I am very concerned about the availability and the delivery in rural Nebraska. So I hope we can balance the two and balance the differences between rural and urban, support the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Does anyone else wish to address this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Lamb?

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam President, members. I appreciate Senator Wesely's assistance on...in this endeavor to attach this amendment. It is important to the health care in rural Nebraska, and I would ask that the amendment be adopted.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lamb. We will now vote on the Lamb amendment. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted on the Lamb amendment to LB 1019? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of Senator