

I'd like to see how those pilot projects pan out for purposes of the experience that they have and I'd ask the body to reject the amendment at this time but know full well that we may be back at this issue a year from now, but I think it deserves the opportunity to play out to get that experience in to see just what we are dealing with here in the way of any problems that might arise with this information gathering process. With that, again I rise in opposition to the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROEAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Senator Stuhr just made a point and I want to emphasize this. In the bill that we passed two years ago we didn't determine this is exactly how you do it, the area agency does it, the hospitals do it. We said try it out, see how this will work. Try a couple of pilot projects and see if this will work. And what Senator Bohlke is saying is we don't even want to try it out, we don't even want to look at the possibility of whether or not this is going to work. We want to just strike that off the face of the bill and just let whatever happens happens and just do the easy thing of those that are Medicaid eligible. Well that's simple. If you want to solve a problem you've got to take the extra step and the best way to do it is to try it out in a couple of areas before you go statewide. Now that's the critical point here. We're willing to wait another couple of years. Now a lot of folks are out there dragging their feet about implementing the pilots and they didn't get started until late last year so right now they're complaining over in Hastings. They've only done 21 prescreenings, in Lincoln it's 77 so we just got started on it. And they're talking, well how do we do this, they're concerned about it. That's great. Senator Hall is right. It may not work. I'm willing to concede. I've already told Senator Bohlke come back in a year's time, show me it hasn't worked. Come back in two year's time and if it doesn't work and I'll be glad to repeal it and not go to that extra step. But what is being asked of you here is let's not even try it, let's not even look at it, let's just give up now and that's wrong, because if you want to deal with Medicaid, if you want to cut the costs of Medicaid, you've got to deal with long-term care and if you want to deal with long-term care you've got to head off people using that expensive alternative if they don't need it and to do that you've got to include more than just those that are obviously Medicaid eligible, you've got to use the other folks out there that in a short period of time use of