

AM4213 is the result of a combined effort study and analysis and agreement of a number of us, and I am indebted and thank Senator Lindsay, Senator Wesely, Senator Brashear for their involvement and hard work on this, together with the cooperation of Senator Will and Senator Hilgert. I would urge the adoption of AM4213.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Matzke, your light is next. He waives off. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, first off, I want to express my appreciation to Senator Matzke who has worked tirelessly on this issue, and has really taken it on. And I also want to thank Senator Lindsay and others who were concerned about the measure, for being willing to cooperate to reach an agreement. And I know there's many parties outside of the Chamber who have attempted to work through this as well, and I extend my appreciation to them. Essentially there's a great, I think, deep and sincere concern on my part, Senator Matzke's and others in favor of the bill, about how the dynamic changes, when you go from a for-profit hospital to a for-profit hospital. Now there are those who will argue there is no difference, and we've heard those arguments in hearings. Others have argued, however, it's a significant change. Certainly it will be different in at least a few regards. I am particularly concerned about how it will impact care for the indigent, how it will impact access to care and a number of other areas that we can talk about. But the idea that we had was two-tracked, and the original bill was a two-track review process; the Attorney General looking at the nonprofit issue, the assets, the transfer of assets and all that is involved there as Senator Matzke outlined. The second review was to be done by the Department of Health to look at the issues dealing with access to care, with the quality of care, with the indigent, with the uninsured, underinsured, and then we... what we've done here is try to streamline that process. And now the Attorney General goes from a mandatory review to an optional review. The Health Department does continue to have a review, but now it's jointly with the Certificate of Need process, so we have taken out some of the hoops that have to be jumped through, but I think it still maintains enough of the integrity of what we're concerned about, to feel comfortable with, at least at this point. Now let me kind of outline what I think will happen, the scenario I think is in place with the adoption of this amendment, and I'd be happy to discuss it further with you. If you have a nonprofit hospital wishing to be sold to another