

need section of LB 827. And what this says, in effect, is that we're going to put a moratorium on any certificates of need until the regional health care plan, as proposed in LB 827, is in place. The regional health care boards then will have the responsibility, as in 827, to review a certificate of need and, as the bill is written, to recommend them to the Director of the Department of Health how that certificate of need, whether it should be granted or not. This comes to the second portion of my amendment which on page 10, which on line 18 through line 21 strikes, "The director may reject the plan if he or she finds it does not adequately address the needs of the region." I think this is too much power for the Director of Health. I have a real problem with establishing another...another regional board giving them the instructions and the mandate, if you will, to analyze and tighten up certificate of need process and not saying Dr. Horton would do it or Gregg Wright when he was in the office or whoever would succeed them but that, of course, can become political. I'm not saying it would. Certainly, that would never happen in our state but it..it could be possible. So I'm also acting that I don't want the director to have veto power over this...over this process. So Senator Wesely and I have discussed some, I'll tell you, quite honestly, the portion of the certificate of need moratorium because of this reason. I have long advocated, in any meetings I have been a part of in this situation, that what we're doing as a legislative body, unfortunately, is many times throwing the baby out with the bath water. And I think the intent of some of the legislators here is to try, and understandably so, to get the spending under control by the...by the metropolitan areas when it comes to expansion and in their particular...in their particular areas. And I'm afraid that what we...what we do is that we penalize the rural areas when we're doing that. Now it's difficult to write statutory language to include one and exclude the other and still make it constitutional and make it fair. But Senator Wesely and I have had conversations relative to separating the rural from the urban, and I think possibly and I want to hear some talk from you on that. I want to hear some input. I want to hear what you're ideas are relative to this situation. I must tell you honestly because of other things I have problems with in the bill which we'll get to when we get to that point, and I probably will vote against LB 827 regardless of whether it's amended or not. But I think we need some discussion on the CON process and as it relates to urban and rural areas at this time. I will be very frank with you, I'm being...I didn't realize this would happen when I first started arguing against