

have gone through the reorganization and the combining of resources to provide health care for our people. We've had the difficulty, of course, as you know providing primary care physicians. We also have had difficulty keeping hospitals viable. Expenses have been running rampant. We've been able to bring other physicians and other physician services to the community on a weekly or bi-weekly or even triweekly basis. With these changes, there has been some need for changes in the physical structures of our...of our physical plants, of our hospitals. We can, for instance, change from three nursing stations to one nursing station in a hospital, which provides for much less need for personnel to staff these nursing stations. We can streamline the access to emergency care, to the emergency room. We are able to do these things with much planning and with much vigor but the planning is dependent now upon the fact that it goes ahead and with the moratorium on the CONs that planning would come to a standstill. I just believe for my particular district that it's best if we don't...we don't proceed along that path. So I am supporting this particular part of the certificate of need change in the amendment that Senator Byars has brought to you this morning. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Witek. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President and members, I anticipated that there would be some concern about this particular section, the question of a moratorium on certificate of need, until we get a regional plan. And let me give you a little background on why it's in there and why I think it makes sense, but at the same time I'm willing to work with Senator Byars on this. We now have something close to \$300 million that has either been approved in certificate of need proposals over the course of the last three years or pending in terms of this year in new proposals that will be reviewed. And when you think about \$300 million, you've got to be concerned about the expenditures. It's not just on the building and equipment that's purchased and all that. Once you get a piece of equipment, you need staff to function and carry it out. You need to regain the revenues that you lost in making that expenditure. When you build a new wing or when you have some additional area that you're opening up you've got to have staff to carry it out. It's not just the construction part of it but it's what it takes to carry out and carry forward beyond that point that is also of concern and those figures we don't see as