

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Byars would move to amend. If I may read, Senator. (Read the Byars amendment as found on page 2151 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Byars.

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, Madam President. I've offered this to try to clarify the issue as it affects...as it affects rural Nebraska, because I think this has been my primary focus from the beginning on this issue. There may be those within the body who are totally opposed to the moratorium. They need to speak out and say how they feel or vote relative to that issue and I can certainly understand that. Everyone has to look at this issue as it's going to affect them and what kind of policy they want to...they want to have in effect in the State of Nebraska. But I've offered this amendment because it takes the first portion of the committee amendments to LB 827 and it changes the language on page 9. On page 9, line 4, after "issued", it inserts the language, "in counties with a city of the metropolitan primary class". What this does, in effect, is separate urban and rural. This will put a moratorium in effect on the urban counties and will exclude the rural counties from the moratorium on the Certificate of Need. Those in the process and those submitted during the process of establishing the health care planning, regional planning groups will be able to go forward with their applications in the same manner they are now. Now, again, I tell you if this is something you have objection to, the entire Certificate of Need process, it's up to you to stand up, enter into the dialogue and make your...make your thoughts known. But at this point I...and I want to tell you I'm going to continue to oppose 827 because of other problems that I see with the bill, but this is going to get it...make it better as far as the 30th Legislative District and the rural area of the State of Nebraska is concerned.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Day.

SENATOR DAY: Madam president and members of the body, I'm going to rise in opposition to Senator Byars' amendment, even as it's restructured. My understanding of this bill when we brought it out of committee I think was very important. To me, this was the infrastructure for our total reform for our health care system and I think we have to bite the bullet and take that step and do it. We all talked last week and the week before on the Medicaid cuts and we all recognized there's more problems than