

just what's going on in Medicaid and I think it's in the health care region. Without the teeth that goes in there to get the regional plan I have a real concern on how soon they'll do it and I just don't know how we can get somewhere when we don't have a plan to get there and I think that planning part of this is so very important. At any time that we do this someone somewhere is going to be hurt. I don't know how we're going to get around that. Again, the moratorium is based on how fast they can get their people put together, how quickly they can take and get a regional plan approved, get it put together. It takes it all back down to the local areas. I think this has so many positive things that we really need to look at for our health care system in Nebraska. I'm aware of the other committees that are working on plans across the state, but again I think this is just the infrastructure. This will give us the basis to build on and to go with those other plans as they come together and I think it's very important that we look at this. We've all talked about health care this year. We all know there needs to be some areas that we need to reform. To me, this is probably the best starting point we could come up with. It's not a major reform. In my mind, it's really a baby step of where we need to go, but if we don't start taking those baby steps we're not going to get there. So I would urge you to oppose this amendment and to vote for the committee amendments. Thank you.

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

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, Madam President, I don't want to belabor the point because I...I think I've pretty much told the story as it...a I feel it affects the State of Nebraska. Senator Day is correct. We need to move forward and I think we are moving forward, but I'm not sure whether this is going to be an assist to moving forward or not. I think there are many, many questions that need to be answered and I think that as we've heard the debate as we go along this morning we'll see some of those questions, but I think it's imperative right now that those hospitals which really aren't the focus, the hospitals out in the rural area that I don't think is the focus of the need for this amendment in the first place, or what the introducer perceives as the need for this amendment, I don't think they need...need to be included in this. I know every community is different, but I don't think all that different in their need for encouraging rural health care, restructuring in the way that we provide services in rural Nebraska. I'm sure the City of