

Norfolk is probably very similar. I know they have a situation where they do still have two hospitals. I know probably it would be ideal as we've done in the City of Beatrice, we've combined those hospitals and if they feel that that is a need that they'll move in that direction. The regional planning process, you all have to make your own decision. Tightening of Certificate of Need, you have to make your own decision. Where is the problem, if you perceive there is a problem? This is what we're voting on in this amendment and I think it's imperative that rural Nebraska be separated from the metropolitan areas and I urge your support of the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Wesely, followed by Senators Dierks, Bohlke and Schellpeper. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I think Senator Day has made some excellent points, again referring back to why we put the moratorium on in the first place. If we're going to seriously move forward in developing a plan that integrates the various perspectives on a community basis, get the people working together to find a way to move forward and efficiently use our money, which is very limited, and we can't continue to afford the expenditures on health care we've been making. If we have a moratorium, the providers out there that are interested in doing some of these projects will have a good reason of working through and helping with the planning. Otherwise, as we've already seen from the Hospital Association, they're opposing the idea of a planning process. That's because currently the system is provider-driven, provider-controlled, and that unfortunately is reflected into a cost reimburse system that is just running amuck in terms of the costs involved. So this is changing the dynamic. It's saying, no, we're going to have the public, the consumer, the purchaser out there involved in the planning. The providers will be part of that. Everybody will be part of that, but we've got to get a change of the dynamic of how this market system works because it currently is a provider-driven, not a consumer-driven, market, different than any other area, in my view, of the economy. But the problem I've got is the reality of politics down here and if we can get 116 out 125 million then I've got a lot more to gain than lose on this kind of amendment, and I recognize the particular needs of rural Nebraska so I'm not going to oppose the Byars amendment. But, again, I emphasize some of the things that we're trying to do with the remaining effort here. We do