

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise to also support this amendment. I think without this amendment I don't like the whole bill. In fact, I don't like the bill anyway, but it does help a little bit if we can take care of our rural hospitals. I think with this type legislation we're actually going backwards in Nebraska with our health care. We have debated this issue several years ago and I think we're getting into another area that's probably going to make it more expensive in many of our rural areas to try to get any legislation, or not any legislation but any health care passed so that we can get some decent health care. The Certificate of Need issue, we debated that, I think it's been three years ago or maybe four, when we took the CON off; that it was just brought out in debate that it really wasn't doing what it was supposed to do. We're currently in...on the federal level they're coming out with some different health care packages and I think by going forward with a bill like this at this time we're probably going to have duplication of services. I think we're getting ahead of ourself. We're putting legislation into place that's really not going to do what it is designed to do, but I am supporting this amendment at this time. I think it's a good way to protect the...some of the rural hospitals, but I also have some problems with the urban hospitals and I think some of them. I'd like to see them work together more, but I really don't want to go back to the CON. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Does anyone else wish to speak to the Byars amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Byars? Closing is waived. We'll now vote on the Byars amendment to the committee amendments. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the Byars amendment to the committee amendments? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 3 nays, Madam President, on adoption of Senator Byars' amendment to the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted. Further amendments?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Byars would move to amend on page 10, strike, beginning with the word "the" in line 18