

Omaha to come under the Certificate of Need moratorium and allow the rural hospitals to bypass that. I mean I think that takes out a significantly important part of what 827 is trying to do and also takes away any motivation for the rural hospitals throughout the state to participate in the regional planning. The hammer in 827 to do the regional care plans is the fact that you put a moratorium on the Certificate of Needs. Now with only Omaha having projects in the works, the only motivation, it seems to me, would be for Omaha to do that so I...I supported 827 out of committee and I think Senator Wesely has done a lot of work and done a good job in trying to come up with a solution, but I seriously wonder whether or not what we've done with Senator Byars' amendment taking everybody out but, in effect, Omaha, telling them that they have...only Omaha needs to have a moratorium on their Certificate of Need, the other projects have no moratorium on their Certificate of Needs throughout the state, how are we going to get these other hospitals to fall into this system? How are we going to get them to do the regional planning? What's the hammer that's out there? I think Senator Byars effectively took that hammer away. I think we need...I agree with Senator Wesely, I think we need to do something. I think, you know, 827, as it was, was the right solution. I guess I would ask Senator Wesely a question about how are we going to get regional hospitals to participate now, Senator, in these regional plans?

SENATOR WESELY: It's definitely going to be harder. I mean you're right, Senator Horgan. I don't disagree with you at all. I think perhaps another...what I'm thinking about is I have talked to the Hospital Association about meeting with them, hopefully after the bill's advanced, to see what we might do to try and address it in a different fashion than what we had in the original bill with some deadlines and maybe some other incentives, so there may be another alternative, but, you're right, this has weakened the effort to get the regional planning process.

SENATOR HORGAN: Well, I...you know, everybody's going to have to do what they think best on 827 and maybe it's best to move it forward, but I guess I'm very disappointed to see that we're getting into this urban rural fight again--what's good for one isn't good for the other. Seems to me that there is a lot of building going on, there is a lot of projects going on and obviously in Omaha the bulk...is where the bulk of it's going on and that's a concern to me and I think we need to deal with that