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with hospitals for health care services and to negotiate for those services and get the best possible price they have to have an idea what charges are being made. They have to know on the average of what this hospital is charging for services versus that hospital and with that information they are armed to go out and negotiate with hospitals to get the best possible price. Now they can already get some of this information, the Hospital Association will tell you. Well the problem is it takes so long and it is so difficult to find that information that usually by the time it is put together it is almost out of date or obsolete and it really isn't in the form that is very useful. If it was easy to get, if it was available, if there was something that could be done you would be sure it is already being done and not only by the business community but by the press. I think the press in the state would love to have the opportunity to be able to compare costs of different hospitals in the state. That would be wonderful service to the public and they have tried to get that information as have the businesses. They have tried to go out and get that hospital cost information and put it in a form they could compare costs and what has usually happened is it has taken so long and has been so difficult they have either given up or the information they have gotten just wasn't valuable. And so anybody who argues that it is all there and they can get it anyway, you don't need this bill, is wrong. That is just not possible under the present circumstances and with the present barriers that we have. Now the second thing is that we make this available and the business community obviously is in support of the bill and can use it but it is also useful for the general consumer, the guy on the street, you and me. When you want to have an operation and it is not an emergency so you have some time to think about it, for instance, in my case I've got a baby to be born in a couple of weeks and if I wanted to I could sit down and I could compare the costs of the different hospitals and decide which one I wanted to go to and then make a decision on which one I'm going to go to.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely, could you wait just a second. (Gavel.) Could we get it just a little quiet in here. It is awfully hard to hear up here. Go ahead, I'm

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