

that the approach was all wrong and they changed the name of it from the hog barn to a swine research center, and the next year it passed and was funded. So I don't know that renaming the bill has anything to do with it, but certainly the approach of cooperation is one that should be beneficial, and it is one that I plan to continue to take. We are very sensitive to the concerns of the hospitals in providing the data and the extra costs that might be involved. But for the hospitals to use the same form is, in fact, a benefit to them. Having only one form to use for everybody is going to be cheaper and easier than having a different form for all the different companies that come to them. So they do benefit from having that uniformity. Then there is the other information we are requesting from them. My sense is that it is information that is readily available and is simply a matter of them providing it. So I sense that that is not burdensome as well. The other steps that will need to be taken, yet to be resolved, deal with who then sends the information in that is collected through this UB82 form that is going to be utilized, and then who gets that information and makes some use of it and makes the comparisons. Those are two big issues still to be resolved. But to at least get this far is a major first step. We can resolve those other issues at a later date. With that I'd appreciate your support for advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins. We are discussing LB 382. Senator Higgins. After Senator Higgins, Senator Lundy.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Wesely, would you yield to a question or two? If this is like the bill that you had last year, or the year before, as I understand it the hospitals are going to be reporting to the Department of Health..

SENATOR WESELY: Okay.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...their costs for doing certain, say an appendectomy, a gallbladder, or they are going to use just uniform codes? What are we talking about here?

SENATOR WESELY: Sure. Senator Higgins, the question of sending in the material, and collecting it, making some use of it, as I just said, isn't resolved yet. We are still working and talking, and trying to negotiate that. All the bill does now is say that they use the same billing form.