

March 26, 1979

LB 382

out, you know. How about these people that have cancer, inoperable cancer, and they are told they are inoperable cancers? They have no choice, no chance, no hope. I don't see how you can take the hope away from people. I don't care if you give them capsule placebo which are nothing but blank capsules. Everyone knows a blank capsule doesn't do anything except one thing, it gives people hope in their own mind and a lot of times it works. A lot of people are given capsule placebo for sleep at night and it works fine. They think they are getting something else and it works. Now there is no force involved in here at all. It doesn't force doctors to do anything. It doesn't force hospitals to do anything but it does give hope to those people that have no other hope, and if you want to take that hope away from them, I think you are cruel. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just to put a couple of things into proper perspectives. One of the reasons why the motion went to Senator Kahle this morning was simply because if we didn't get the votes here on the floor of the Legislature, then, of course, the bill would have automatically died. In other words, if I would have kept the motion in my name and I didn't get the votes, the bill was dead. If we fail with this motion this morning, we still have a chance in committee. I want to address a couple of other things that were somewhat of a concern to me earlier, in that the majority of those people who have testified in opposition to the bill have been the young, the very inexperienced members of this Legislature. Senator Wesely, a freshman, Senator Simon in his junior year along with Senator Cullan and myself. You know there are some of you people in this Legislature who have neckties older than us and I would hope to hear from at least that segment of this body, people who have lived and have seen people suffer. Some of you perhaps even firsthand know what the problems are in cancer today. Ladies and gentlemen, I just want to briefly go over the various sections of the bill. It will just take but a second. Section 1 of the bill is just simply having the Legislature endorse the freedom of choice in cancer therapy. Section 2 of the bill just tells you what it is, and what is Laetrile? Well, Laetrile is a food substance. It is a food substance. Primarily the source, its origin, comes from the pit of an apricot. Section 3 of the bill says that it would be lawful in the state to use Laetrile. Section 4 would permit the use of Laetrile by doctors and doctors only. In other words, if a doctor did not want you as a patient to use Laetrile, then he would not make you use Laetrile.