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LB 379

role of nursing in these various nursing specialties. The nurse specialties I feel are important to the practice of medicine and particularly in a rural state like Nebraska. Nurses do and are receiving additional training beyond the diploma or the four year program that they currently have now to attain these nurse specialties and so I think that in the long run this will be something that will be of importance to the State of Nebraska. This particular bill does very carefully define the role of the nurse anesthetists and includes, sets up their scope of practice and also their relationship with physician and the many requirements that they must meet before being allowed this expanded role. I guess that is all I would have to say at this point in time. I would urge you to adopt LB 379 and ensure that these individuals will be able to practice within the scope of the legislative authority that we grant. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Chairman and members, I wonder if Senator Cullan would respond to a question, please.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes.

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Cullan, I apologize, I was called out in the rotunda for a little bit but could you tell me if the nurse practitioner created by this act, do they have to operate under the auspices of a medical doctor or are they licensed under the auspices as a physicians assistant is?

SENATOR CULLAN: No, they are considerably different. Well, I don't mean to say no in total. What I mean to say is that they are considerably different than physician's assistant. They cannot have an independent for fee service. They have to work with the consent and consultation of a supervising physician but the physician does not of course have to be there at all times. They can set up the protocol for their actual practice but they are not independent practitioners. They must work in consultation with the consent of a physician.

SENATOR VICKERS: So there is a procedure whereby they are under the control a licensed physician then?

SENATOR CULLAN: Absolutely but they are given considerably more responsibility commensurate with their training than are the regular registered nurse.