

for pulling their hair, for beating them, which is in the Department of Health's records that they have done this. There is no penalty for failure to record the medications they give them so that a patient can be given this same medicine two times within an hour like in changing shifts. This bill is going to correct something that has been going on for thirty-five years. Right now the only thing the Health Department can do when a nursing home is not in compliance is revoke their license. Mr. Speaker, could I have a little attention, please?

PRESIDENT: Yes. (Gavel.)

SENATOR HIGGINS: I'm sorry, Senators. I know that the Nursing Home Association has already told you how to vote on this.

PRESIDENT: Half a minute, Senator.

SENATOR HIGGINS: And I know that the Hospital Association has told you but I wish just for once you'd think about the 17,000 people in nursing homes and not the people who run the nursing homes who have come to you and said, "Don't vote for this amendment." If you're counting votes, for the love of God, 17,000 amounts to a lot more than 205. I am talking about human beings, not profit, and what we're doing to people in nursing homes today is nothing but human warehousing for profit, and the handout you have there shows it to you. The nursing homes don't want to pay a penalty. Senator Cullan argued last week, LB 408, the three trailer truck system. Right in the transcript you'll hear Senator Cullan saying, "No bill is any good if it doesn't have penalties in it." And these amendments say there will be penalties for tying people up eight to ten hours a day and never relieving them from their wheelchairs. Revoking their license is absolutely ridiculous. Through our appeal process they go on for eight, nine months, continuing the same rotten, sloppy operations and abusing these people. I have a handout here if you would like to see it showing the profits of the nursing homes going up from \$79,000 one year to \$112,000 the next year and on ad infinitum and that is just the sixteen that are being bought right now. Every one of them has got a profit every year. So when the lobbyists tell you that it is going to raise prices, they can't raise them any more than they already have. What they're saying is, we want Medicare money, we want Medicaid money, but we don't want to give the state, we don't want the taxpayers to get value received. We don't want to pay a penalty for abusing people but Senator Cullan says we should pay a penalty for trucks that are overweight. This amendment will say that they have to have training. Do