

SENATOR NELSON: Yes, we will take the bill up.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Continue discussion on the bill, thank you. Back to the order of speaking, Senator Smith, followed...I am sorry, Senator Withem. I am sorry.

SENATOR WITHEM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I know most of my motions are so well-thought-out that everybody understands them, but on this one I think I would like to speak just a little bit before we get into the debate on it. This is a motion that I am not making with a great deal of pleasure. This is a bill that was heard by the Education Committee, advanced from Education Committee on a 5 to 1 vote. I was the one no vote. I don't like making IPP motions on other senator's bills. I don't know if I, trying to remember if I ever have as a legislator filed an IPP motion which I continued to pursue to a vote with the desire of actually killing another senator's bill. But I have had a lot of concerns with this, and a lot of concerns that came up during the hearing, a lot of concerns I have had in discussions with people since the hearing. I think there are probably some things that could be done to improve this piece of legislation. As a matter of fact, I was under the impression that there were going to be some amendments offered to clarify some of the concerns that I have and some of the concerns that other people have. Unfortunately, we don't see those motions here. I think there is probably only one thing worse that we can do as a Legislature than ignore a problem in our society, and that is to pass a bill that claims to solve that problem that really has little or no impact on that problem, and I am afraid that is what we have here with LB 357. I agree that there is a problem. I have sat on the Education Committee and I have sat on the Health and Human Services Committee and I recognize the fact that we have a problem with a nursing shortage in this state. I have no problem with the Legislature using some of its money to target to help attempt to solve that problem, to attempt to get needy young people that have a desire to enter the nursing profession into the nursing profession, and we have done that with other professions. We have done it with math and science teachers. We have done it with doctors. We have done it in other situations. I have no philosophical problem with that. My problem with this particular bill, though, is that it doesn't necessarily do that. There are about three major problems that I have with this piece of legislation that I think if it passes in its current form it will be one of those little nice things