

in state law because it seems to me a number of our nursing homes, especially nursing homes located in smaller communities across the state are having a difficult enough time surviving and operating without continued additional regulations being imposed on them. And, Don, if you would, and I'll give you the remainder of my time. I'd just like an explanation as to what this bill does and whether it's another requirement that is going to make it more difficult for a small town's nursing home to be able to operate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, yeah, Mr. Speaker, Senator Johnson, this will have no impact on any nursing home operation except one that deals specifically with head injured persons. It doesn't change anything in existing standards or anything whatsoever. It actually, what it does is make it easier for this new type of facility which is now being built in Omaha and could, they're talking about it elsewhere, maybe even Broken Bow, and so all we're doing is making it easier in terms of administrators for those facilities to meet the requirements to get licensed so they could operate the facility and it will have no impact on any other nursing homes.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator Wesely, all I wanted to say was, I'm getting very gun-shy with a lot of these issues especially for our small community health providers, if it happens to be nursing homes or hospitals, and I think you recognize that and I appreciate the explanation you gave. One of the problems that we have in this floor and in this Legislature is that we're basically preempted in serving on only a few committees and a lot of times we don't get a chance to hear the explanation on a lot of these bills, so that was the only purpose for my questions. I just, as I said, I'm getting very nervous that we might be putting more administrative duties or requirements on our small towns that...small nursing homes, that they just simply can't either afford to meet or are not able to meet because of a lack of personnel.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schimek. Thank you. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I would just like to reinforce what Chairman Wesely has said about this bill and tell you, I think Dan Lynch and I both can affirm to