

please.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Byars, Senator Lindsay and I have, all three of us have worked quite hard on the issue of dealing with this lawsuit problem in home health aides and their ability to practice the sort of work that they have been doing for many years, but now have come under scrutiny by the Health Department. This amendment is LB 688 as it sits on Final Reading and sat there for quite some time on Friday and the fear that we have is that the elements of the bill are vital, absolutely vital, that we must pass the legislation and we must have this take effect this year or we have any number of lawsuits and disruption in our mental retardation system as well as other types of facilities that are affected by these provisions. So all you, if you need to, if you look at LB 688, and I'll give you some background on it, but that is the essence of the bill. It provides for a one-year provision until July 1 of 1991, a hold harmless provision with training requirements for these individuals for this routine health care maintenance procedure so that they wouldn't have to meet the stringent licensure that they had in the past. Simply would ask your adoption of the amendment and I appreciate both Senator Lindsay and Senator Byars' cooperation on this. A lot of time and effort has gone into this compromise and we need to see that it gets done this session.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Discussion? Any discussion on the Wesely et al. amendment? Anything further, Senator Wesely? The question is the...excuse me, Senator Beck.

SENATOR BECK: I just have a question for Senator Wesely, if I could.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR BECK: When we were working with...as the bill went along and moved along, Senator Wesely, there were concerns from some of the nursing personnel and, you know, the bill has kind of been up and down and around now, and it shows up again, and I think that there is definitely a need, but I want to know if their concerns are allayed. The nursing profession was concerned about the bill and if you could just kind of give me the background on that, or that I would know that their concerns are put to rest.