

deal with something on a lesser level, that you need a tiered approach to a problem. You don't just take that sledgehammer, but you have another way to deal with it. And in addition, also, I know Senator Dierks has raised this issue in the past, unlicensed practice can be more easily dealt with for individuals that are practicing in an area in an unlicensed fashion. We think we can, under this legislation, more quickly deal with that problem. That has been an issue raised by Senator Dierks in the past. That's a brief summary of the amendment. Again, it is essentially LB 387 as amended by committee and I'd be happy to answer questions, Madam Chairperson, on this matter.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I'll now recognize the senators in the following order: Senator Withem, Smith, Lynch and Beutler. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Members of the body, I turned my light on because I thought Senator Wesely was getting lonely standing over there explaining his bill and, evidently, there are some other people paying a little attention to it, but when I first came to the Legislature, I served on the Health and Human Services Committee, and after that service, after I had served my time and was released from that service, I came to the conclusion that we spent an inordinate amount of time on that committee and in the Legislature dealing with licensure questions and who is licensed and who can perform what functions and setting up the parameters around which they operate, and very little time dealing with enforcement. And if this bill is one which it appears to be one in which we are putting a little more teeth in our medical enforcement procedures, I commend Senator Wesely for doing that. I think I'll be very supportive of it and would be interested in hearing the other discussion if there are any problems. I guess I just have one question of Senator Wesely, if he could respond.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR WITHEM: Senator Wesely, this bill deals only with the Board of Medical Examiners?

SENATOR WESELY: No. It's across the board for all health professionals.

SENATOR WITHEM: Dental providers, also. I know that was the