

one area where I had gotten involved in a few years ago was in this whole area of dentistry where we fought over who can do what, but we didn't have a very good, in my opinion, a very good system as far as enforcing it. This will, in fact, deal with some of the problems we dealt with years ago over what the dentists were concerned with.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Withem, this is exactly the issue that we dealt with those years ago. If you recall, and I think you've mentioned this, the Board of Dental Examiners and the other boards are saying they want to deal with the problems of discipline within their profession but they are left out of it till it's too late for them to have much input. This puts them involved more early on, allowing them to assist in the matter, and the Board of Examiners are solidly in favor of this measure, as well as the Department of Health.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: I would like to speak on the bill itself.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam Chairman and members of the Legislature, without...or for fear of sounding like Senator Loran Schmit or Don Wesely, I was involved with this a long time ago myself with 1046, if I remember. And when I did that, I did it because I thought people who worked in the medical profession should get the same shake as people who work in other places, and if they had a drug problem or an alcoholism problem, they should have a chance to keep their job and also be rehabilitated. Most companies, large companies in particular, they let you go around at least twice. After that, you're probably at risk. There is another dimension to this though as it applies to medical professionals and that is the problem that they have because of the access to drugs, but also the risk to the patients. And I have to tell you, Senator Wesely, I'm going to have some amendments, I didn't realize this was going to be amended into it, that will deal with that issue. In my opinion, there is not even a fine line, but a wide, wide difference between someone who has a problem and how they're treated and people who violate the law. And in my opinion, I don't think we should in this case, then, treat people who are in the medical profession any