

more question for you. Do we have a definition of life-sustaining treatment in this particular bill?

SENATOR LANDIS: On page 3, life-sustaining treatment shall mean any medical procedure or intervention that, when administered to a qualified patient, will serve only to prolong the process of dying.

SENATOR PIRSCH: So, it seems to me in other bills you have specifically noted different life-saving treatments but you did not in this particular bill?

SENATOR LANDIS: And the source of this definition is from the Uniform Rights of the Terminally Ill Act written by the Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, that is the source of the language.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. Again, I stress I support people making a written declaration of how they want to be treated. Again, I state, as I did last year in this debate of pulling it from committee, that most often litigation comes because of the poor health care, because of the lack of treatment, because of the ignoring, many times, of the elderly. I haven't changed my mind about that but I do think that everyone, even young people, should have this declaration. With the elderly, it is often easier to make those determinations, but with young people like Nancy Cruzan, who...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...are involved in accidents, it is far more difficult and stressing and tragic. I am prepared today to support some "living will" legislation and I am interested to know if there will be amendments or what the discussion will lead to. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I would like to take just a couple of minutes to go through a little bit of a background and history on this issue. I stand in support of LB 671 but I am also a cosponsor of LB 696, and I do hope that we will be able to merge, not maybe perhaps merge, but at least work on both of those issues and move forward with some legislation today and this session. But let me give you a