

are trying to do here. I have no expertise in the legal nuances that are necessary in a document of this type, but I do know that in southwest Nebraska, in my district, more than 80 percent of the people I have polled are strongly in favor of a statutory recognition of what we call a living will. I have supported this legislation ever since I have been a member and will continue to do so. I hope you will all listen carefully and remember what your constituents have said and support this legislation, and if Senator Landis or Senator Kristensen would like some additional time, I would yield the rest of my time to them.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Landis, would you like?

SENATOR LANDIS: Let me see if I can get on to at least one of the questions that Senator Kristensen asked me. I know it is a question that many of you have asked me in the past. What about the topic of, well, Doug mentioned food and water. In fact, if we were talking about food and water in the sense of being spoon-fed, that isn't a medical procedure. The medical procedure is when you take a tube and stick it in the body. So as far as feeding someone who can be fed, that really isn't involved in the bill here because it is not a life-sustaining medical procedure or treatment. It is when the body can't do that and you jam a tube into the body that it becomes a medical procedure. All right, now let's say you have got someone who can't feed themselves, can't breathe, that is what a respirator does, and you make a machine do for the body what it cannot do, and you are incapable of saying, yes, no. Now if you were awake, you could say don't stick an IV in me. If you are unconscious, you don't have that choice. If the IV, if the food and nutrition is for the purpose of alleviation of pain, the living will does not authorize...a living will will not authorize its withdrawal. If, in the opinion of the attending physician, it is for comfort care, the living will would not authorize the imposition...I am sorry, would not authorize the withholding of that treatment. Now comfort care is generally for alleviation of pain, and it goes somewhat beyond the alleviation of pain. It goes into...it is a phrase that people use for things like...like the comfort of the bed, for ice on burnt lips. That is a phrase, there is a wide variety of things that are called comfort care, okay. It is not doing for the body which it can't do. It means to give comfort in some way, a lotion for dry skin. In the event that the attending physician says, look, this will provide comfort care or the alleviation of