

SPEAKER BAACK: Okay, Senator Wesely, we will go to the amendment to the committee amendments. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Lindsay and Wesely would move to amend the committee amendments. Senator, I have AM2418 in front of me, 2418.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, the amendment is 2418. What's being passed around to you is, I think, AM2388 which is the same amendment. Just before lunch I realized that it had been drafted as an amendment to the bill instead of amendments to the Standing Committee amendments. So the only change between the two is simply that one is drafted to the committee amendments. Other than that, all provisions are the same. Senator Wesely, I think, did a very good job of giving the background on this. LB 696 was before the Health Committee last spring. It was advanced out of the committee. The committee had some concerns that were worked out since then, which were worked out among different interested parties. Since then, a lot of time has gone in with several of the different groups that were mentioned by Senator Wesely to try to work out something that would be agreeable or at least people would be comfortable with. Let me just give you a background of what...and this does tie in with this morning's discussion regarding a living will. This is, as Senator Landis mentioned, or in Senator Landis's words, I should say, another tool to be used in the issue of death and dying. The durable power of attorney is simply the delegation of authority to make decisions from one individual to another. There is...I heard on the news...this morning when I got out of bed I was listening to the news and they said that you can appoint an attorney to do that. It kind of freaked me out a little bit because, no, you do not have to appoint an attorney to make these health care decisions for you. When they use the term in the bill, attorney in fact, they are referring to anybody that you may designate. It does not, repeat, does not have to be an attorney. The individual that...it's kind of presumed, I guess, that people would be designating their husband or wife or their mother or father, son, daughter, close friend, somebody that they feel comfortable with making health care decisions on their behalf. The durable power has a lot of advantages in providing a system of continuing health care decision making. Whereas, I...whereas,