

other individuals who came in and supported this measure, recognizing that there was a need, in the area of nutrition that is a component part of health care and the overall wellness, if you will, for individuals. Senator Wesely was kind enough to allow me to offer this as an amendment to the bill. It incorporates the committee amendments as the Health and Human Services Committee adopted to the bill, and I believe that it does make the addition of medical nutrition therapy as an issue that is one where we are going to have a class of individuals who will be set apart by the department for purposes of their educational experience and background with regard to nutrition therapy. I think that it is a...a time has come where we recognize these individuals who work in almost every aspect of the health care from the time an individual steps into the health care arena, whether it be on an in-patient, or an out-patient setting, whether it be in a hospital setting or a nursing home setting, whether it be in-patient or at-home therapy, these individuals are involved from the very beginning with regard to the health and the nutrition of patients. It speaks to the issue of what would be required with regard to the examination and testing for purposes of the licensure, and I believe that the proposals, as spelled out in the amendment, are very easy to understand. The licensure explanation is found on page 17 of the measure, I can go through and read it to you, if you would prefer. But really the process is one that because of the way it's been dealt with over the last few years, because of the individuals that have come on board and have supported it, it, I think, is a rather noncontroversial proposal that I would hope the body would support and amend into LB 406. I'd be happy to respond to any questions from members regarding the proposal. Thank you. It's found, as the Clerk said, as a separate amendment to the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Madam President, members, if you're following Senator Hall, the amendment is actually the amended version of LB 492. There is next to no fiscal impact. I think it's 5,000 in cash funds, no General Fund. And what it does is again, it's sort of like the X-ray issue. This issue, if I remember right, Senator Hall, that first bill you had was almost ten years ago, and it's been an issue before us from time to time ever since then. At that time there was a great deal of controversy, the dietitians have labored and labored and narrowed, and narrowed, and narrowed their focus to a point now where they exclude