

to it than the cafeteria and there's more to it than the meals that they bring you when you're in the hospital. Two examples that I know of in particular, one was a young woman who was in an accident and she was at Madonna for nine months, and before she came out of the coma every day they gave her the food by intravenous and they called it her Big Mac because it had all the vitamins, everything she needed to come out of that coma and survive. And that's a medical nutritionist who knows what should go into that feeding and why. And the other one, not like...I think in December I was fortunate enough to meet with some of the nutritionists and went out to St. Elizabeth's Hospital here in Lincoln and went through the burn unit. And there again you see burn patients need a certain amount of food and they can't always help themselves, and so the nutritionist has to figure out what elements that each person needs in order to recover from whatever trauma and whatever injuries they've had. So, as I said to start with, it's just more to it than just the cafeteria or the meals that we all think are pretty bland and drab after we've had surgery or something. But I just think this is very important. As medicine and medical technology progresses this kind of skill and this kind of professionalism is very important to all kinds and all ages of people, it is very important for elderly in a nursing home to have the components every day in a diet that...to...so they feel well. If you're getting Meals on Wheels at home you want to be sure that it is a well thought out meal. And, yes, they probably give you a little piece of candy or a piece of cake, too, along with it. But I just think those two examples, for me, are the answer as to why we need the medical nutritionists. And I'm very pleased to support this amendment. Thank you, Senator Hall, for bringing it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Hall, a couple of questions if I may.

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I guess on this particular kind of bill the thing I always think about or worry about, especially in the medical area because we've been working so hard to try to bring costs down, and as you know these licensing bills, depending on how they're structured and what they are designed to do, can have the effect of driving costs up.