

increase...the licensure and the increased oversight and professionalism as opposed to what may be an increased cost down the road.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Has there been any current problem that you know of with respect to the professionalism of this group of people?

SENATOR HALL: No, actually the issue came about from the profession themselves wanting to improve even farther. As I pointed out and Senator Wesely did that the certification has been in place for approximately ten years and they wanted to upgrade the licensure, and we brought the bill in last year and again this year and it's now in a form where all parties have agreed to it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is it the hospitals that contract to hire these people, or is it the doctors?

SENATOR HALL: Right...presently...the vast majority contract with an institution, whether it be a hospital, a nursing home, or someone else. But I do not believe that the doctors in a great part contract directly with nutritionists or dietitians, but that is not out of the realm of possibility. The home infusion example that Senator Crosby gave is one example.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Any further discussion of the Hall amendment? Seeing none, Senator Hall, do you wish to close?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members. Again, I believe that this is a move to improve this area of health care, the professionalism that is needed, I think, as those questions have been addressed by the individuals themselves within this professional area. Working through the department and others that are intimately involved in the kind of services that are provided by these individuals they've come to agreement that this is something that ought to be done. Senator Crosby and others, Senator Beutler who spoke. I appreciate your comments, especially Senator Crosby who cosponsored the measure. I think it is important in this specific area that we allow for this