

this language. I have been arguing with representatives of the Hospital Association and various representatives of other hospitals to try and get them to refine the language here. There are many ways that you could say this. In fact, I wish I could quote you the term of art that's used in the Texas statute that goes on for a paragraph. Different states use different languages in their lien laws. This seems to be the simplest, the most straightforward and the one that has been used the most commonly, especially with Medicare, and it is a definite standard. A hospital cannot file a lien for what is the customary charge for that type of service so that puts a cap on it.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members. The... and Senator Witek was trying to, I apologize, she was trying to get me to call Senator Brown a liar and I won't do that just yet, but, Senator Matzke, I appreciate that and what I want to try to I guess establish for the record is that what we are trying to do here is create a stricter standard and would you respond to that? Could we just have a little tete-a-tete here, if you would please?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Matzke.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Matzke,...

SENATOR MATZKE: Yes.

SENATOR HALL: .the purpose behind the amendment then is to ensure that it is a stricter standard for purposes of the charges that hospitals, physicians or nurses would be able to...

SENATOR MATZKE: I think...

SENATOR HALL: ..charge in these cases.

SENATOR MATZKE: I don't know that I would use the word "stricter". I think reasonable is too ambiguous. I think usual and customary is more definite. What we want is a more definite standard that will keep the charges absolutely legitimate.

SENATOR HALL: And if the standard then becomes the practice that these individuals and institutions have had all along for