

one being needed to sign off on one of these cooperative agreements. And again, that has been the crux of some of the problem, cooperative agreement versus practice agreement, but in this version of the committee amendments, we're talking about a cooperative agreement. We talk about these amendments going through the Department of Health and being reviewed. We talk about the protocols and the need to have some practice, 2,000 hours of practice under the supervision of physicians. We do deal with one of the problems that came up at the hearing was the prescription of drugs and potentially drugs that could be of some danger. Schedule II drugs are only allowed to be prescribed by nurse practitioners for 72 hours so they're really basically an emergency authorization by nurse practitioners to issue those types of drugs under a prescription so we did put some limits on that authority. We also required, unlike the original bill, that there be a liability insurance maintained by advanced registered nurse practitioners. We also dealt with liability responsibility in terms of health care facilities and the board of nursing and board of medicine's oversight in any complaints that may be filed in terms of a nurse practitioner. We have a number of other things dealing with federal drug laws that need to be had to be clarified and other changes that reflected some problems in drafting as I mentioned. So the committee amendments are not complete in addressing some of the concerns that were expressed, but nevertheless they do clean up the bill in ways that were a positive step forward. We had the bill advanced unanimously then with these committee amendments on a seven to zero vote and the bill was picked as a committee priority bill last session. It did not have a chance to come up on the floor. Time ran out last session, and negotiations have continued up to even at this moment as we've tried to work with physicians and nurses in resolving differences on the bill. Rather than go into that at this point, Senator Withem I'm sure will address those concerns with the amendments that will follow. I would very much ask your support for the committee amendments that do clean up a number of problems. And as I've indicated, these are either supported or at least not opposed by the medical association. With that, I'd ask for adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Day had an amendment printed last session, page 950 of the Journal. I understand, Senator