

bill and to pass it with this wording of direction of a physician. The change in this bill from the current status is small, it's very small. It's an improvement, it's a step forward, but it is certainly nothing close to what was originally contemplated by the nurses. To move it a little back toward...closer, a little bit closer to where the nurses wanted to be, the language that's being offered by Senator Withem and myself help do that. It doesn't go too far in my view. It doesn't open up the situation where you're going to have nurses running independently about making prescriptions and making diagnoses free and unable to access physicians and their expertise. It's not the intent and it won't be the result, but it is so restrictive without this change, without these words being taken out. There really will be a very small change ultimately with the bill without this amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: I think we need more than that. We have a problem, we know that there's a problem. I think everybody would grant you now that there have at least been some cases that need attention. This bill will help, this amendment will help even more and I'd ask your support for it.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wesely. We have a number of speakers on the list. We'll go through the list and if you wish to speak on either the bill or the original amendment, we'll pass you over. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Yes, I want to ask a couple of questions. Senator Wesely, don't go away or Senator Withem I guess. I, as most of you on this floor have listened to physicians and/or physician assistants, I've had some letters from the PAs and/or nurses, and I think most of you know by now how I feel about nurses. I have four nurses in my family who are practicing at this time. I'm very close to them and I'm close to a lot of nurses that I know because I've said this before, I'll say it again, nurses are the backbone of the health care professions. Without the nurses, the hospitals and the physicians' offices and so on, when you go to the physician office, how long do you see the physician? Not very long. You spend a lot of time with the nurse. You spend a lot of time with the nurses in the hospital. If you're a patient in the hospital, the nurses are the ones who look after your care