

and so on. So anything I say I want the nurses to know I'm still advocate and friend and I feel strongly about nurses being there and being able to practice in the way that will take care of people the way we need to be taken care of without endangering anybody's health. And I use that word endanger because there are so many aspects to health care that a person misdiagnosing and/or giving the wrong prescription and/or giving too much of a drug, that kind of thing, I think we just have to be very careful. I have one letter that I like very much. It's from a nurse that I've worked with for a long time and many of you have, too, and I think one of the things she says is that one of the major points of misinformation of this particular legislation is that an independent...an advanced registered nurse practitioner will be an independent practitioner. And she says that's not true, it will obtain a cooperative agreement with at least two physicians. There's so much in this bill I think we need a little...some language and some understanding here of the finer points of this bill and bring it down to where we can understand it. I'm not a nurse and I'm not a physician so I want to know what they're going to be doing. She has to...the nurse has to obtain a cooperative agreement with at least two physicians licensed to practice in Nebraska with whom he or she will consult. At the moment, I think that that's one of the points that they're talking...the reason they wanted this legislation is some practice agreements, as I understand it now, are with physicians 1,000 miles away. That's not very convenient nor helpful that I can see if we really think the nurse practitioners fill a need and should be there. So then the other thing is the educational level that she brought up to me and there, again, I think we have to be very careful and I want to be sure of this. There are, as far as I know, there are no attempts...amendments or whatever to try to dilute the present educational requirements for a nurse practitioner. Is Ron Withem or Don Wesely, can you tell me that's true? Nobody is listening. (Laughter) Thank you. Can you tell me, Senator Chambers? Senator Withem or Don, there's no...there's no...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...amendments or anything right now to dilute the educational requirements for nurse practitioners in any way, shape, or form whether they work in a health clinic or for a doctor or in a hospital?