

practitioner can disregard it and is not in violation of the law. So you have gone from giving the doctor direction of the activities of the practitioner, but if you go back up to the paragraph starting in line 12, it says, "The advanced registered nurse practitioner and the collaborating physician shall have joint responsibility for patient care." How can there be joint responsibility when all the doctor gives is advice which can be disregarded? But when you get to line 14, it says, "The collaborating physician shall be responsible for supervision...to ensure the quality of health care." If the supervision consists only in giving advice, but that advice, if followed, would ensure the care of the patient, but the practitioner under the law can ignore it, how is that care ensured by saying all that the doctor gives by way of supervision is advice? Advice can be ignored. So what is being done here is by means of definition you're doing away with any responsibility really on the physician to do anything other than to give advice. So let's say the physician's advice is that this nodule needs to be lanced and the nurse...I won't give an example, the physician gives advice on a condition. The nurse practitioner says, I don't agree with that and I'm going to treat it in accord with what I think, and the condition worsens and the patient dies. The physician is not liable or responsible because the law said that...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the physician's advice can be ignored. The one primarily responsible, the one independent of what the doctor says is the practitioner. And you can talk about scope of practice and everything else that you choose. This language, if adopted, means that the nurse practitioner makes the final judgment and there is nothing under the law to prevent that. Those are my observations based on reading the language. I'm not even talking philosophy yet, but I thought I should make those points.

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is next followed by Senators Elmer, Schimek, Maurstad, Bohlke, Matzke, Landis, Jones, Lynch, Robinson, Crosby, Hartnett, Vrtiska, and Chambers.