

bill, not actually what we came out with but the process. All during the process very few times, in fact I counted one time, in the discussion of the two groups did they talk about the patient. And I suspect it's pretty much the same way here, you know, who gets to do what, who is going to be more independent, who has supervision, but no one talks about the patient and the standard of care except maybe in this Chamber hopefully. As I look at Nebraska, we are never going to have all of the primary care doctors in rural Nebraska we would like to have. It's not going to happen, it will never happen. You can have all the Rural programs, all the sparrow, cardinal programs for that matter, and it's not going to happen. But what is happening in Nebraska is we are beginning to form a very strong regional hospital centers who are making a tremendous effort going out statewide and going out...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...into the respective areas. And what we have with the regional centers is that people who are in need of medical care we do have access and are going to have access to that. But one of the areas that we get to on this type of particular bill is do you simply give up the level of care because you want to have more access? And there are certain things you can't have. You can't have many times more access and the same high level of care. Am I downgrading nurse practitioners? Absolutely not. They have a tremendous place in our system. They will be able to fill a tremendous void, but you have to ask the question when things go wrong what standard of liability of care do people in Nebraska expect? You want to have it on the directed so the physician is there to that standard rather than on the advice or at the lower standard because that's better care for all of us.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And that's why I oppose this amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. I have a couple of questions of Senator Wesely if he's available.