

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR ELMER: And it has to do with I wonder how this agreement is working in other states if such a practice is available in those states and whether it's at the direction of or with advice of and a couple things like that. And I do have some more to say, so be a little brief if you can, Dr. Wesely...or, no, excuse me, not Dr. Wesely, Chairman Wesely. (Laughter) Do they have this type of agreement in other states?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, we...there are at least...

SENATOR ELMER: If so, how many?

SENATOR WESELY: There's at least 11 states that would be, that I've got listed here that are from the Midwest and rural that would have something similar.

SENATOR ELMER: Do they have the discretion of with the advice or at the direction of?

SENATOR WESELY: From what I can tell those states that have taken action, and I should say I would, I would not characterize the majority of the states have taken that step. So this is probably in the range of 10 to 20 states that have provided for some less restrictive oversight of nurse, advanced nurse practitioners.

SENATOR ELMER: Have they had any, as to your knowledge, adverse circumstances or bad effects from this?

SENATOR WESELY: I see here, one of the figures I have is a 0.1 percent incidents of reportable malpractice suits. So evidently there, there have not been any rampant problems.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay. You know, I'm just a dumb fertilizer dealer from out west. We don't have very many docs out there. And when I was a paperboy 40 years ago I delivered to a doc in our town and 90 percent of the time he was out of his mind on cocaine or morphine or something. In that...if a doctor is incapacitated that has an agreement, or is absent, would this nurse practitioner under this bill have any discretion at all or would she be hamstrung with nothing to do with the absence of a