

would have more discretion as a result.

SENATOR ELMER: And so if a doctor's incapacitated or unable to deliver the service or unable to deliver his advice, this advanced registered nurse practitioner would be more able to make a quick decision in the absence of her...

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR ELMER: ...of the people that she has the collaborating agreement with.

SENATOR WESELY: Right, within their scope of practice they would have more flexibility...

SENATOR ELMER: You know, they may have, they may be injured in a car accident, they may be on a skiing trip, they may be a lot of other things rather than on drugs or alcohol like I used in a couple of the others, but they're all circumstances that could happen to anybody.

SENATOR WESELY: Right. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Madam President, members of the body, actually Senator Elmer just touched on an area that I was going to rise and speak on, and that is what's happening in other states. You know, I know this is a difficult issue. It was difficult for those of us who were on the committee. It was difficult for those who worked on the original bill. And it's always going to be difficult any time you are changing the power structure, if you will. You are changing the way that we, we practice. And I, and I remember somebody telling me, and I think it was a doctor as a matter of fact, that the same kinds of concerns and arguments were raised when we talked about giving physician's assistants the kind of practice that they eventually were allowed to in this state. So I think fear of the unknown often raises a lot of ruckus. In looking at my folder here and seeing the numbers of letters that I've had from medical professionals all across this state, I know this is an important issue and that we have to take a lot of care with it. But I, I do know also that in other states they have a more liberal, if you might want to say, method of practice for nurse