

practitioners. And, in fact, I've been told that there's only one other...that we are the only state that actually has a written practice agreement. And I can check that out, but I have been told that that is the case. And that 30 states are less restrictive than Nebraska when it comes to nurse practitioners. Now I know that some of you probably have gotten letters from nurse practitioners who have said that they may have to leave the state if they want to practice, that other states are far more permissive. And I believe that to be the case. I think I heard David Landis say one day that this argument boils down to do you want quantity of care or do you want quality of care. And I think that's what, that's what this argument sometimes boils down to, but I don't think that really is the real argument. And I'm, I'm real happy with some of the language here, Senator Chambers, in this amendment because it does talk about collaboration. And I think that's what we on the committee envisioned, that there would be collaboration, that there would still be working agreements between the nurse practitioners and the doctors. And I certainly wouldn't want it any other way. I think that the more people in the medical community that we have working together, the better. But I do believe that there is a role for nurse practitioners, that they do have the qualifications, maybe not for the very difficult diagnosis and treatment and so forth, but certainly for most primary care, or a great percentage of it. And I, I think that the nurse practitioners themselves are not going to want to open themselves up to the kind of liability that they could incur if they overstep those boundaries. And because of what we just heard...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...from Senator Wesely about the percentages in other states that have been sued because of malpractice, I believe that there is a record there that speaks for itself. And that if we can, if we can work out the details on this I think that we're all, both...or I should say all, both the nurse practitioners and the, and the doctors, but the patients themselves are going to be the beneficiaries of this. So, with that, I just support the Withem amendment. But even if it doesn't pass, I think that we've come a long way here with this language and I, and I feel certain that this bill is going to pass at some point in the very near future because I think it is going to improve the care in this state. And that's probably